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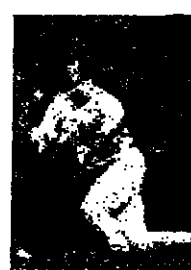
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Immigrant groups launch war on tax reform

By DAVID ZEY HARRIS

Immigrant organizations from English-speaking and other countries yesterday pledged to fight the Treasury's planned tax reform. The Treasury plans to tax income from overseas investments and assets, following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's May announcement of the full liberalization of the shekel.

Last night, at the Association of

Tel Aviv, world markets plunge, Page 12

Americans and Canadians in Israel's headquarters in Jerusalem, it was agreed to establish two committees to tackle the issue. The first will comprise accountants and tax lawyers who will present their objections to the legislation to officials and politicians, and suggest alternatives acceptable to the Treasury; the second will begin a widespread campaign, including attempting to raise awareness among the general population and lobbying.

See TAX, Page 22

Turkey warns Syria on Kurds

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey yesterday warned Syria it could hit back for Damascus's alleged support of Turkish Kurd rebels. It was its most serious warning yet.

"I declare once more to the world that we reserve the right to retaliate against Syria, which has not abandoned its hostile attitude despite all our warnings and peaceful initiatives, and that our patience is nearing an end," Turkish President Suleyman Demirel said at the opening of parliament.

MPs responded with a round of applause.

Tense ties between Turkey and Syria have worsened in recent weeks as the two sides exchanged accusations over water sharing, Turkey's military links to Israel, and Syria's alleged support of the guerrillas.

"Syria is continuing to actively support the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) terrorist group," said Demirel. "This is not a friendly approach."

Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said the warning should not be taken lightly. "I hope [the Syrians] take it seriously, because we have very serious concerns about Syria," he told the NTV television channel.

Defense Minister Ismet Sezgin said earlier that the powerful military-dominated National Security Council had discussed the growing tension with Syria, the Anatolian news agency said.

See TURKEY, Page 22

SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	4:47 p.m.	5:59 p.m.
Tel Aviv	5:05 p.m.	6:01 p.m.
Haifa	4:57 p.m.	5:59 p.m.
Beersheba	5:04 p.m.	6:01 p.m.
Eilat	5:03 p.m.	6:01 p.m.



Haifa soccer sensation

Jubilant Maccabi Haifa fans celebrate as Alon Mizrahi scores in injury time last night to beat Paris St. Germain 3-2 in their European Cup Winners' Cup match. Match report, Page 24. (Reuters)

Vienna University dissected, displayed bodies of Nazi victims

By GEORGE JAHN

VIENNA (AP) - Doctors and medical students at Vienna University dissected nearly 1,400 bodies executed on orders of Nazi courts and some victims' body parts remained on display up to this year, researchers announced yesterday.

The bodies - including those of eight Jews and hundreds of others executed for resisting the Nazis - were transferred to the university's anatomy institute for research and teaching purposes, said the authors of a report examining the role of the medical faculty during Nazi rule in Austria.

The bodies came from the execution chambers of the main Vienna court and not from Nazi death camps, as had been alleged, the report said.

The report is the latest of a growing number of investigations of this country and its institutions after Adolf Hitler incorporated the land of his birth into Nazi Germany in

1938.

After World War II, Austria depicted itself as a victim of the Nazis. But that image has been tarnished in recent years as evidence piles up that many Austrians were eager participants in Nazi atrocities.

Research into the medical faculty began last year, after allegations that a highly acclaimed and popular anatomy atlas used the bodies of Holocaust victims as the basis of highly detailed drawings.

Yesterday, the researchers said those suspicions could not be confirmed, although it is possible that bodies transferred by court order after being executed by the Nazis in Vienna could have served as models.

The atlas, *Topographical Anatomy of the Human Being*, was compiled by Eduard Pernkopf, a leading Nazi who headed the university's medical faculty after Hitler annexed Austria.

See VIENNA, Page 12

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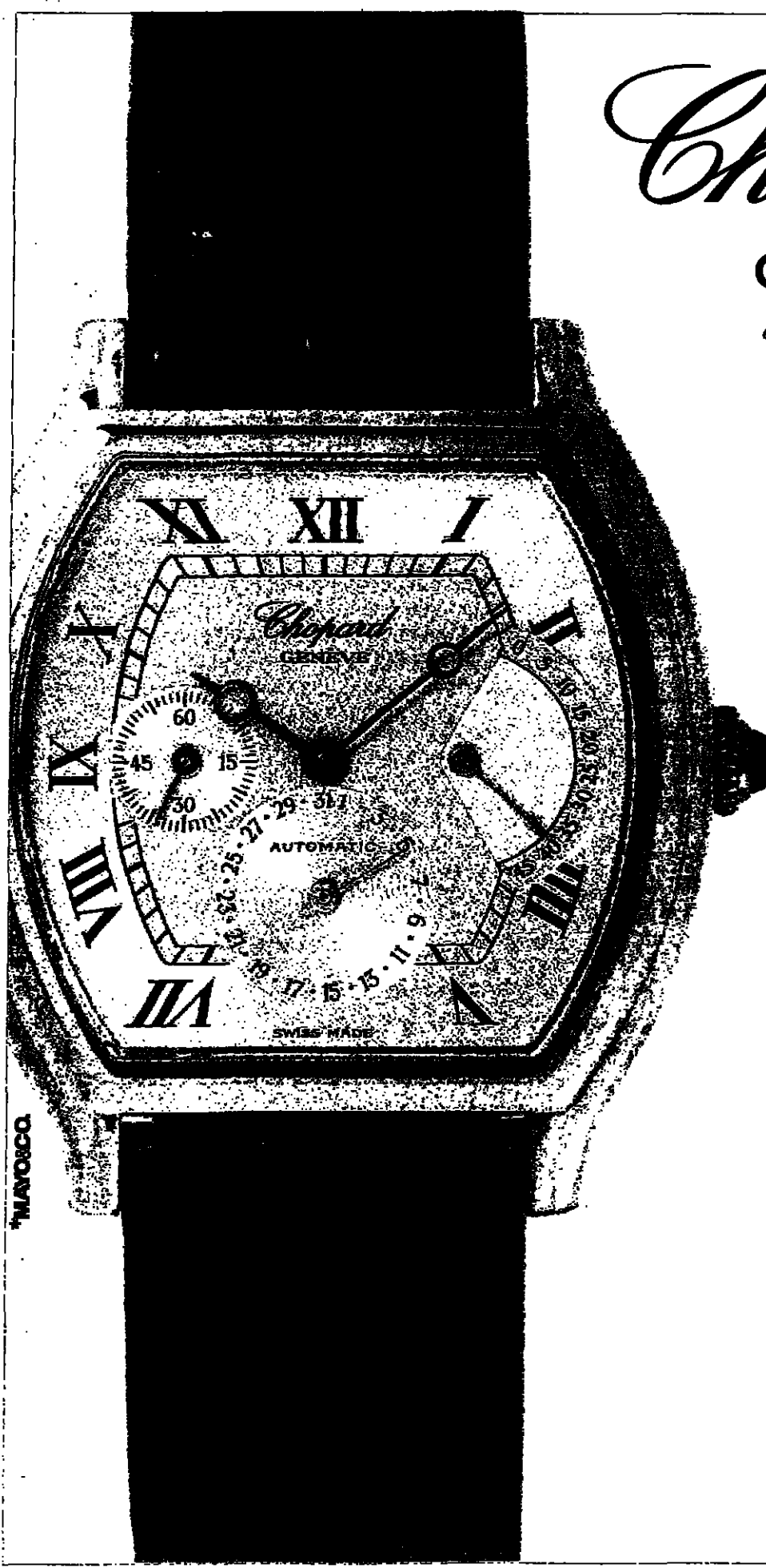
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Hizbullah warns of retaliation if Israel strikes Iran

By DAVID RUDGE
and news agencies

If Israel were to launch a pre-emptive strike against Iran, the latter would retaliate with sophisticated weapons from Lebanon and not only from Iran itself, Hizbullah's spiritual leader, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, has warned.

Fadlallah, whose comments were widely reported in the Lebanese press, said that an Israeli strike on Iran would change the political situation and what was forbidden would become permissible.

He maintained that any act of aggression by Israel against Syria would be considered as an act of aggression towards Iran.

The chances of an Israeli strike against Iran, however, were slim, especially at a time when Western countries were showing signs of wanting to renew ties with the Islamic Republic.

Fadlallah spoke during a meeting with religious students and his comments were first carried by Hizbullah's own radio station and later in the Lebanese and Arabic press.

He later clarified his comments, saying that he had not meant that Iran would retaliate against Israel from Lebanon, but that this would be done by the Lebanese Resistance, a euphemism for Hizbullah.

Fadlallah once again maintained, in this context, that Hizbullah has acquired sophisticated weapons which until now it has refrained from using.

Iran's Foreign Ministry warned yesterday that Tehran would respond vigorously to any kind of aggressive measures by Israel.

Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi told the official Iranian news agency IRNA that Iran considers it a legitimate right to gain access to advanced technology and conventional weapons which conform with international laws, in order to defend its territory.

The government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called for international pressure on Iran to stop its developing ballistic missiles. The statements followed the first public outing for Iran's latest medium-range missile, the Shehab-3, at a military parade in Tehran.

The missile, which was test-fired in July, has sufficient range — 1,300 km — to reach Israel as well as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and parts of Russia.



Honorary doctorate

Hebrew University President Menahem Magidor (center) confers an honorary doctorate on British Prime Minister Tony Blair at a Friends of Labor Israel dinner in Blackpool last night, as university rector Menahem Ben-Sasson looks on.

Dubek: Cigarette tax expressly for health damage

By JUDY SIEGEL

Dubek managing director Arye Ovadia yesterday sent a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange claiming that much of purchase tax on cigarettes is "meant to reflect the health damage done to smokers and those surrounding them."

His statement is seen as an anxious attempt by the company to defend itself against Kupat Holim Clalit's NIS 7.6 billion damage suit, filed earlier this week against Dubek and American and British tobacco companies. The Maccabi health fund filed a suit against Dubek several months ago. At the request of Health Minister Yehoshia Matza, ministry experts are studying figures on public expenditures for treating smokers

with an eye toward the possibility of also suing tobacco companies for compensation.

In its suit, Clalit argued that it had spent that much since 1990 treating members who smoke and developed cancer, heart disease, and other smoking-related disorders.

Dubek spokesman Ran Rahav did not comment then, but yesterday he issued Ovadia's statement that the company "is due to send a third-party announcement" to the Finance Ministry due because over the years, purchase taxes on cigarettes were levied to help cover compensation for medical treatment of smokers.

Ovadia said he will also send such an announcement to Clalit and Maccabi "due to the negligence of the health funds, as insurers, by fail-

ing to warn the public about 'health dangers of smoking,' as it were, that they claim have been known since the beginning of the 20th century."

Dubek's hint that a "dedicated tax" had been levied on cigarettes for use to treat the diseases of smokers is based on a 1997 report from the State Revenue Administration, page 175, that states that the tobacco purchase tax "reflects the estimate of the external influences of cigarette consumption (health damage to the smoker and his environment)."

However, the Health and Finance ministries dismissed Dubek's claims, declaring that there has never been a dedicated tax on tobacco products whose proceeds go to cover medical expenses for treating smokers.

Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef

denied that any agreement exists between it and Dubek to allocate money from cigarette purchase taxes to health care.

Health Ministry deputy director-general for economics Gabi Bin-Nun said that purchase taxes on tobacco are collected by the Treasury for general use, and that "higher cigarette taxes are also levied to decrease smoking by the public, as the higher they are, the less people smoke."

Clalit's spokeswoman rejected Dubek's claims, saying it was the health fund that had suffered "tremendous financial damage" due to the tobacco companies, which acted intentionally to make cigarettes more addictive and cannot escape responsibility for their action.

Netanyahu: No decision on Pollard release

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

The release of convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard was raised during Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's talks in Washington with President Bill Clinton earlier this week, but no decision was taken, Netanyahu told the cabinet yesterday.

Netanyahu's comments followed a report in yesterday's *Yedioth Aharonot* saying that a deal had been reached with the Americans to release the spy in the wake of an agreement on the West Bank with the Palestinians.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who was sent to Capitol Hill on a special mission by Netanyahu two weeks ago, said yesterday evening that "public opinion in the US and Israel was now ripe" for the spy's release.

"Even hard-nosed Republicans," with whom he had met on Capitol Hill, had given him the assurance they would not use the Pollard issue against Clinton if the US president agrees to free him, Edelstein said.

But, he said, "so far there has been no breakthrough."

Pollard's second wife, Esther Zeitz-Pollard, reacted angrily to the newspaper report, saying it was "a deliberate sleight-of-hand meant to deceive the Israeli public."

"Our sources at the highest levels in Washington tell us that the subject was not raised in a serious manner during the prime minister's meeting with President Clinton. Consequently, no agreement was reached on the matter," Zeitz-Pollard claimed the leak.

was a propaganda move. "Every time the prime minister goes to Washington these stories are leaked to the press to relax the Israeli public, so they won't wonder why the prime minister is coming home empty handed once again," she said.

Meanwhile, Meir Rosenne who was ambassador to Washington at the time of the Pollards' arrest criticized the national unity government's behavior at that time towards the spy.

Israel "did something that was not acceptable in connection with spies... When a spy is caught, usually the country that sent him 'knows nothing about him'," Rosenne said in an Israel Radio interview.

"But in the case of Pollard, because it was the US, what did we do? We cooperated with the US authorities to incriminate Pollard... This is something that had never happened before and there is no doubt that it affected the morale of all our secret services adversely."

AP adds: White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry confirmed yesterday that the issue arose in the meeting between Clinton and Netanyahu, but denied that any deal had been reached.

Another administration official said granting early release to Pollard would be met by strong opposition within the US government.

Pollard, a former US naval intelligence analyst, was arrested outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington in 1985.

Knesset panel to discuss early elections

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Knesset Law Committee chairman Hanan Porat said yesterday that he plans to convene the panel after Succot to push forward the bill calling for early elections.

Porat, who met with Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, said he is personally in favor of dissolving the Knesset, since he will not support

the government if it decides to withdraw from parts of Eretz Yisrael. He said that other National Religious Party members would also vote for early elections.

The bill, proposed by Labor and Meretz MKs, passed preliminary reading just before the summer recess and was debated in the committee, which met during the recess.

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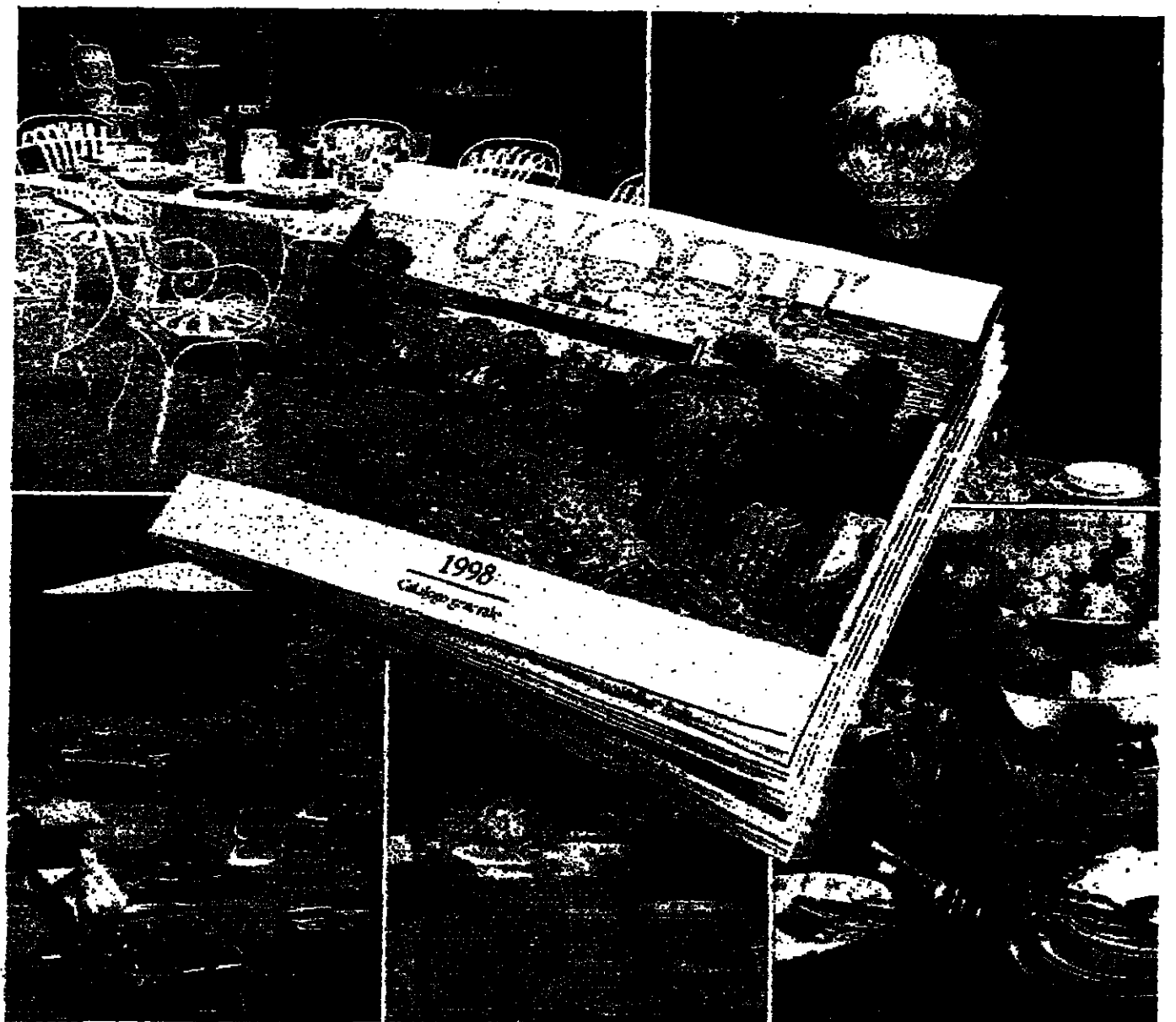
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Labor members defect, join Olmert

By AMY KLEIN

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday officially signed members of the Labor party's Jerusalem branch to his United Jerusalem list, and Labor leader Ehud Barak took steps to oust the signatories from the party.

Olmert announced that Israel Electric Corp. General Manager Rafi Peled, also a former police inspector-general, would be second on the list, and that Haim Cohen, Secretary-General of Jerusalem's branch of the Labor party, would be fourth.

The eight and tenth seat would go to other Labor members, while Deputy Mayor Yigal Amedi would take the third slot. The rest of the list was not announced.

"Jerusalem is not a partisan issue, it has a national consensus," Olmert said at a press conference yesterday. "This is our chance to unite forces on the matter of Jerusalem."

The coalition will continue to include haredim as partners, Olmert said, "and we will be a rainbow coalition for a united Jerusalem."

Peled, Cohen and Olmert expressed hope that they could cooperate on controversial issues such as Har Homa and the opening of a tunnel entrance near the Western Wall, which ignited riots in 1996.

"There is a national consensus on Jerusalem, and the city has sovereign rights which should be imple-



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (right) whispers during a news conference to Haim Cohen (left), who defected from Labor yesterday to run on Olmert's list in the municipal elections. (Isaac Harari)

mented," Peled said.

Cohen said that the problems often involved timing and "our presence on the list can address those issues."

One of those who defected with Cohen, Miriam Bonfil, the head of Na'amat in Jerusalem, later

reneged, it was reported.

The defectors were supported by several senior Labor leaders including former party chairman and prime minister Shimon Peres, Moshe Shaleh, a former police minister, Jewish Agency chairman Abraham Burg and MK Nissim Ziv.

While Cohen was thrown out of his office in Labor headquarters in Talpiot yesterday, Cohen said that he did not intend to quit the party for which he had worked for 30 years.

"This is a big shock to our party, and almost all of the upper echelons of Labor support me," Cohen said.

"After much soul searching on Yom Kippur, I decided that the good of Jerusalem is more important than the narrow vision of the party," he added.

Cohen brought nearly all of Labor's Jerusalem branch to Olmert, including 60 local union leaders. "If they don't learn from their mistakes, they will suffer the consequences," he said.

Barak, meanwhile, assured Jerusalem One candidate Professor Shimon Shetreet that Cohen and those who joined Olmert's list were out of the party.

Speaking at Labor headquarters in Jerusalem, Barak said that the party would continue to support Shetreet.

Shetreet said he was glad Olmert took Cohen.

"Most citizens in Jerusalem feel that the city's management is corrupt. Therefore it's very fitting that Olmert placed on his list Haim Cohen, a person who has been involved in bribery and robbery. This is further proof that Jerusalem desperately needs new leadership that is trustworthy and even-handed — that's what I will bring to this city," Shetreet said.

Meretz mayoral candidate Naomi Chazan called Cohen's move and Peres's support of it "treacherous," adding that it showed Meretz was the only peace party running in the elections.

An embarrassed party moves against defectors

By SARAH HONIG

The Labor party yesterday moved fast to punish its Jerusalem branch for rebelling against the national leadership and allying itself with incumbent Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

The branch — the great majority of whose members supported joining Olmert — has been disbanded, its heads were stripped of their titles and may eventually be expelled from the party.

These punitive measures were announced yesterday by Labor Secretary-General Ra'anan Cohen, though he failed to include the masterminds of the move to link up with Olmert — former prime minister and Labor leader Shimon Peres, former police minister Moshe Shaleh and Jewish Agency chairman Abraham Burg.

Peres went abroad yesterday, but both Shaleh and Burg repeated their support of a rebellion sparked by fierce opposition to the mayoral candidacy of former MK Shimon Shetreet.

The branch members had beseeched party chairman Ehud Barak for months to drop Shetreet, claiming he would do the party

great damage in the capital. Barak pulled no punches yesterday when he vowed "to put order in the Jerusalem party branch house."

Haim Cohen was removed as branch secretary-general and a temporary executive was appointed, headed by party organization chief Richard Peretz.

There were also calls yesterday in the party for further steps to be taken, to make an example of the Jerusalem defectors and deter any turncoats from arising in other branches. Sources close to Barak, however, doubt he will dare take any steps against Peres, to avoid underscoring Peres's successes at challenging Barak at every turn.

In the latest Jerusalem showdown between himself and Barak, Peres has managed to place most of the Jerusalem branch in Olmert's court against Barak's explicit support for Shetreet.

Peres was supported not only by the branch functionaries but by party representatives in the Jerusalem Labor Council and by union leaders.

Those around him acknowledged that the problem was a very troublesome one for Barak.

MK Binyamin Ben Eliezer, who heads the party's municipal campaign headquarters, complained: "This is anarchy."

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QUALITY

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El Al: Carrying sarin component legal

By SH DAVID and news agencies

El Al spokesman Nahman Kleiman yesterday confirmed that a company cargo plane that crashed near Amsterdam in 1992 was carrying a chemical that can be used in the making of the nerve gas sarin.

But he stressed this was not illegal and that the airline did not hide any information regarding the incident.

Kleiman said that the cargo jet, which crashed outside

Amsterdam six years ago, "was carrying dimethyl methylphosphonate," a key component of sarin, as well as "various electronic goods and perfume destined for the duty free in Ben Gurion airport."

"The material in question is included in the list of materials approved for uplift or carriage in passenger or cargo airplanes by international organizations... including the UN," he added.

A Dutch newspaper *NRC Handelsblad* reported this week

that the plane was carrying 190 liters of dimethyl methylphosphonate when it crashed into an apartment block outside Amsterdam in 1992. The newspaper said the chemical was en route from Solkatronic Chemicals Inc. in Morrisville, Pennsylvania to the Institute for Biological Research in Ness Ziona.

It is also used as a flame retardant and in the making of plastic. Kleiman said El Al cooperated fully with the Dutch government,

which has known about the chemical for six years because it was listed on the cargo manifest handed over by Israel shortly after the crash.

"There is absolutely nothing new," he said yesterday. "We have never denied it in the past. We had never been asked before."

The Civil Aviation Authority is to look into the report, according to Transport Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia. He said Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom did not order a new investigation of the

crash, but rather a check into the specific claim about nerve gas components.

When asked if this incident would tarnish El Al's image, Kleiman said: "Not in any way because we've been honest and forthright in providing information from the first day and we've been cooperative with the Dutch authorities since the crash. So I don't believe this will affect the way people see us. It gets carried by planes from all over the world every day."

NEWS

in brief

More Israelis going abroad

Israelis made 835,000 trips abroad during July and August, a 9 percent increase over last year, according to figures the Central Bureau of Statistics released yesterday. Some 656,000 of them left by air, an increase of 7% over last year.

The average length of trip abroad continued to drop. In 1993, the average trip abroad was 17 days. Average stays abroad dropped by a day in each of the preceding years and stood at 12 days in 1997. Thus far in 1998, the average stay abroad has fallen under 12 days.

The most popular destinations were Austria and the Netherlands, both up 29%; Thailand, up 27%; Italy and Germany both up 17%; and Belgium up 14%. Less popular were the Nordic countries, down 23%; Poland, down 19%; Turkey, down 9%; and Cyprus, down 7%.

Shi David

Exploding 'yahrzeit candles' wound NY family

Five members of an immigrant family of Bukharan Jews were injured on Tuesday night in Queens, New York, when they lit what they thought were *yahrzeit* candles, but what were in fact explosives.

The Borokhova family, who emigrated from Uzbekistan, told fire officials that they had bought the candles last year at a flea market in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and lit them at the beginning of Yom Kippur.

At least one candle was actually an illegal firecracker whose blast is like that of a half-stick of dynamite. The firecracker appears to be a votive candle, because of its stubby shape and size and because the ends are sealed with a glue that looks like wax.

Three adults were cut by flying glass. Two children, ages 2 and 4, suffered from ringing in their ears, said a police spokesman.

Marilyn Henry

Comic book recalled for antisemitic slur

Marvel Comics is repenting for *Wolverine*. The latest issue, which went on sale on Yom Kippur, included a scene in which a character refers to an adversary as "the kike known as Sabretooth." *The New York Post* reported yesterday.

The text should have said: "the killer known as Sabretooth," according to Marvel spokeswoman Maryanne Caruso, who blamed the slur on "human error."

Marilyn Henry

Weizman backs Agranat Commission findings

News agencies

While the nation paid tribute yesterday to 2,700 soldiers killed in the Yom Kippur War the debate raged on over whether the Agranat Commission had been fair in placing most of the blame for the debacle on the generals rather than the

politicians.

President Ezer Weizman spoke out against demands to cancel the commission's findings, saying that "the time has come for us to learn that when a court makes a ruling, we have to accept it for better or for worse."

Regarding Agriculture and

Environmental Affairs Minister Rafael Eitan's call to throw the Agranat report "into the trash bin of history," Weizman said: "This is an unfortunate and unnecessary comment."

Speaking at a memorial ceremony at Mount Herzl, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday

that the "heroism of the Yom Kippur fighters paved the way to peace with our neighbors."

"This victory, more than any of its predecessors, brought our southern enemies to recognize finally that they haven't the strength to defeat us on the battlefield," said Netanyahu. "They learned their lesson and

turned to the path of talk and reconciliation with our existence. The peace with Egypt came a relatively short time after the Yom Kippur War."

"The way to comprehensive peace is not short... It's hard to know with certainty how much longer the way ahead of us is but the aim is clear - completion of the circle of peace with all of our neighbors," Netanyahu added.

About one of every 600 Israeli males was killed in the war which Egypt also claimed as a victory, its army achieving a psychological gain by crossing the Suez Canal. Egypt was the first Arab state to make peace with Israel in a treaty signed in 1979.

The IDF Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Shaul Mofaz said the country paid dearly for the joint Syrian-Egyptian surprise attack on October 6, 1973.

The war that became called "The Yom Kippur War" was among the most difficult of Israel's wars and cost a heavy price of our best fighters on land, in the air and on the seas," Mofaz said.



Hana Shindel (right) lights a torch yesterday on Mount Herzl during a memorial marking 25 years since the Yom Kippur War. Shindel is the widow of Sgt. Zvi Shindel, who was killed while fighting in the Golan Heights. (Brian Hendler)

National park workers planning Succot strike

By LIAT COLLINS

The Environment Ministry is preparing for the possibility that workers at the Nature Protection and National Parks Authority will carry out their threat to strike over Succot.

The NPNPA has asked the courts to issue a restraining order, and the request is scheduled to be considered this morning.

Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen has told NPNPA director-general Aharon Vardi to be prepared to open the parks and nature reserves to visitors, even if it means free entry. She said the parks and reserves would be

operated by volunteers and workers from personnel companies.

Vardi said the workers' claims are valid, but he opposes the steps they are taking. The authority will do everything possible to keep the sites open. He emphasized that only NPNPA workers will operate the sites.

The NPNPA employees declared a work dispute over demands stemming from the March merger of the Nature Reserves Authority and the National Parks Authority. The NRA was formerly under the Environment Ministry's auspices, while the NPA was partly the responsibility of the Agriculture Ministry. Among the

demands is one to equalize their conditions and pay. Currently the former NPA people earn more.

Hillel Glassman, the head of the workers' committee for the former NPA, said that five months of discussions with the Finance Ministry have "failed to produce any real progress." He said the attempt by the Environment Ministry to try to keep the sites open "is a declaration of war."

"Obviously we chose to hold the strike during the holiday when it would have most effect," he said, but would not elaborate

what steps the workers would be prepared to take.

Ronen called on the public to act with extra caution and responsibility and to abide by anti-litter laws and safety regulations, even if the wardens are not patrolling the public areas.

She noted that the Environment Ministry had supported the workers' demands. "The nature reserves and national parks are a national asset placed in the NPNPA's hands. A strike over the holiday for reasons not related to anything can only harm the workers' aims," she said.

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The Third Wayward

A public opinion poll in Britain last week revealed that many people think the Third Way is a sexual position. That's probably because of Bill Clinton (again.) Israelis would probably do better — they know the Third Way as an untenable position.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Following the victory of a yet another telegenic free-market Social Democrat in Germany on Sunday, the West's major powers are now in the firm grip of the Third Way — not our Israeli one-issue splinter of a splinter, but the Clinton-Blair-Jospin-Schroeder axis attempting to reconcile free market economies with social justice.

It goes further than that — 13 of the 15 European Union states now share governments with a common Social Democrat world view. (Ireland never developed a left-right party system, Spain's government is conservative.) France of course has to be complex, combining a right-wing president with a socialist prime minister — but maybe that's what Third Wayward is about. By no means is there harmonious homogeneity.

Brit chic
Newly elected Gerhard Schröder will not become chancellor until the new parliament convenes later this month. Yet he wasted no time this week in rushing off to Paris to reassure Jacques Chirac that the French-German marriage is not about to be shaken by his interest in that sexy little New Britain across the channel. The French should understand these harmless amours.

Having followed Schröder on the campaign trail for ten days, it seemed clear to me that Gerhard's political heart really is in London. His campaign slogan was *Die neue Mitte*, the New Center, about as near as he could get to New Labor without outright plagiarism. Then there were the rock bands, folk singers and laser lights — whoever heard of swinging Bonn before? His campaign managers wisely dropped an early attempt to run Schröder as the German Blair, but what a joy it would have been for Schröder to have Blair at his side on the campaign trail. Such a concept would be totally un-British, so at Schröder's final campaign rally in the Berlin Velodrome, he was flanked by a near approximation — Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima, sporting a bright red tie.

Klima is a photogenic dead ringer for superman Christopher Reeve, and his introductory speech, urging Germans to vote for Schröder took us somewhat aback. Was this not blatant intervention in the internal affairs of a neighbor?

Turk off!
Germans seemed nonplused. "They're friends, Austria holds the presidency of the European Union, and his speech was about the need for a pan-

European alliance against unemployment and for social justice," a German colleague explained. "It's not interference, it's solidarity."

Hmm! It sounded like more Third Waywardness. The previ-

ous night we had heard the right-wing premier of Bavaria calling on the Turkish prime minister to get lost and mind his own business, because he had urged German voters of Turkish origin to vote for Schröder. Most of Edmund Stoiber's audience in Munich's Marienplatz seemed astonished to learn that such a Turkish-German could even exist. Indeed, Bavarians seem amazed to hear that there is another Germany outside Bavaria. Stoiber also yelled at "the Communists" (east Germans) to "stay in their holes where they belong" and called for "strengthening our Christian homogeneous culture."

The Right as always knows what it stands for. We have been warned. But the Third Way? Still searching those roads less traveled.

Israelis discovering a wheel tend to think they invented it.

"We have the Third Way in Israel for many years," an Israeli informed an academic who was briefing us on European political trends. I think not.

Vote horse

The name has been around for at least a century, though not of course as a Blairism. A war-mongering general, Georges Boulanger, stood for a 19th century election in France against a wishy-washy liberal candidate. Socialists derisively advised voters faced with a choice between blimp and wimp to choose a Third Way candidate: "Vote for Boulanger's horse."

Neither let us not forget that the Green Book by Muammar Gaddafi was an attempt to chart a third (Islamic) way between capitalism and Marxism during the Cold War. Whatever one thinks of Gaddafi's policies, it was a credible intellectual effort.

Anyone in search of a withering glance should try those anecdotes on Tony Blair. Two weeks ago, he made his bid for EU political philosopher with a pamphlet entitled "The Third Way — New Politics for the New Century."

At least he was modest enough not to chart a course for the millennium.

But in one of those wayward glitches on the road to Nirvana, a search of Third Way on the Internet turns up, among other non-sequiturs, the web site of a British neo-fascist outfit. Indeed, the *Sunday Times* last weekend reported that the (fascist) Third Way has been inundated with requests for Blair's pamphlet, and is sending out its own instead. Could it be called *Die neue Labor*? Ehud Barak, tread cautiously on the wayward Way to pastures new.

Security Council readying statement on Kosovo massacres

By EVELYN LEOPOLD

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) — Security Council members intended to issue a press statement yesterday condemning massacres of several dozen Albanian villagers in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province in what may be a political buildup to military strikes by NATO.

The next step is a report by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, expected to be issued on Monday, after which Britain, which holds the council presidency this month, hopes a tougher resolution or statement can be issued against Yugoslavia.

The press statement, which reflects members thinking but is not a legal or official document, is expected to condemn the atrocities,

call on Belgrade to identify and punish those responsible, and request the Hague-based UN war crimes tribunal to include the massacres in its investigations.

The statement will also demand compliance with a resolution that the council adopted last week, diplomats said. That document demanded an immediate end to attacks on civilians by Serbian forces and negotiations for a settlement of the crisis in the largely ethnic Albanian province, where guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army are waging a separatist campaign.

Annan is to report on whether Yugoslavia adhered to that resolution, which British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said could "provide the basis for the next step."

NATO has completed planning for possible air strikes.

Clinton administration officials were briefing US senators on preparations for military action, while British Prime Minister Tony Blair said his country is ready to join such an action.

British and US officials apparently consider last week's resolution that warns of "further action and additional measures" in the event of noncompliance as a legal basis for authorizing the use of force.

But Russia and China have repeatedly made it clear that it did not or they would not have voted in favor.

Yesterday's statement will not involve a public meeting as British officials had hoped. The aim, diplomats said, was to act quickly and

avoid the need for council members to refer a text back to their capitals.

The immediate catalyst for private Security Council consultations were reports from witnesses that Serbian security forces killed at least 16 civilians, including 10 women and children, in the village of Gornje Obrinje last Saturday and another 18 people the same day in the Drenica region.

The reports still need to be investigated. One NATO official said that while there's no sign the reported massacres were faked or set up, "we don't have any independent evidence of who carried them out, beyond the media reports."

Two investigators from the UN war crimes tribunal on the former

Yugoslavia were in Kosovo on Wednesday to look into the issue. Serbian authorities have denied their forces were involved in the killings that took place in an area where they have been shelling and burning villages.

Referring to the butchered villagers, Cook told reporters in Blackpool: "Most of those killed were women and children. This was not an act of war. This was plain cold murder. There must be no impunity for such an act of ethnic hatred."

Annan expressed outrage over eyewitness reports of the atrocities, especially since he said he had been assured during a meeting on Tuesday with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Zivadin Jovanovic that no such actions were taking place.

Cook rejects 'civilizations clash' with Islam

By JOHN MORRISON

BLACKPOOL (Reuters) — British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook called yesterday for better relations between Europe and Muslim countries, rejecting the idea of an inevitable "clash of civilizations" between them.

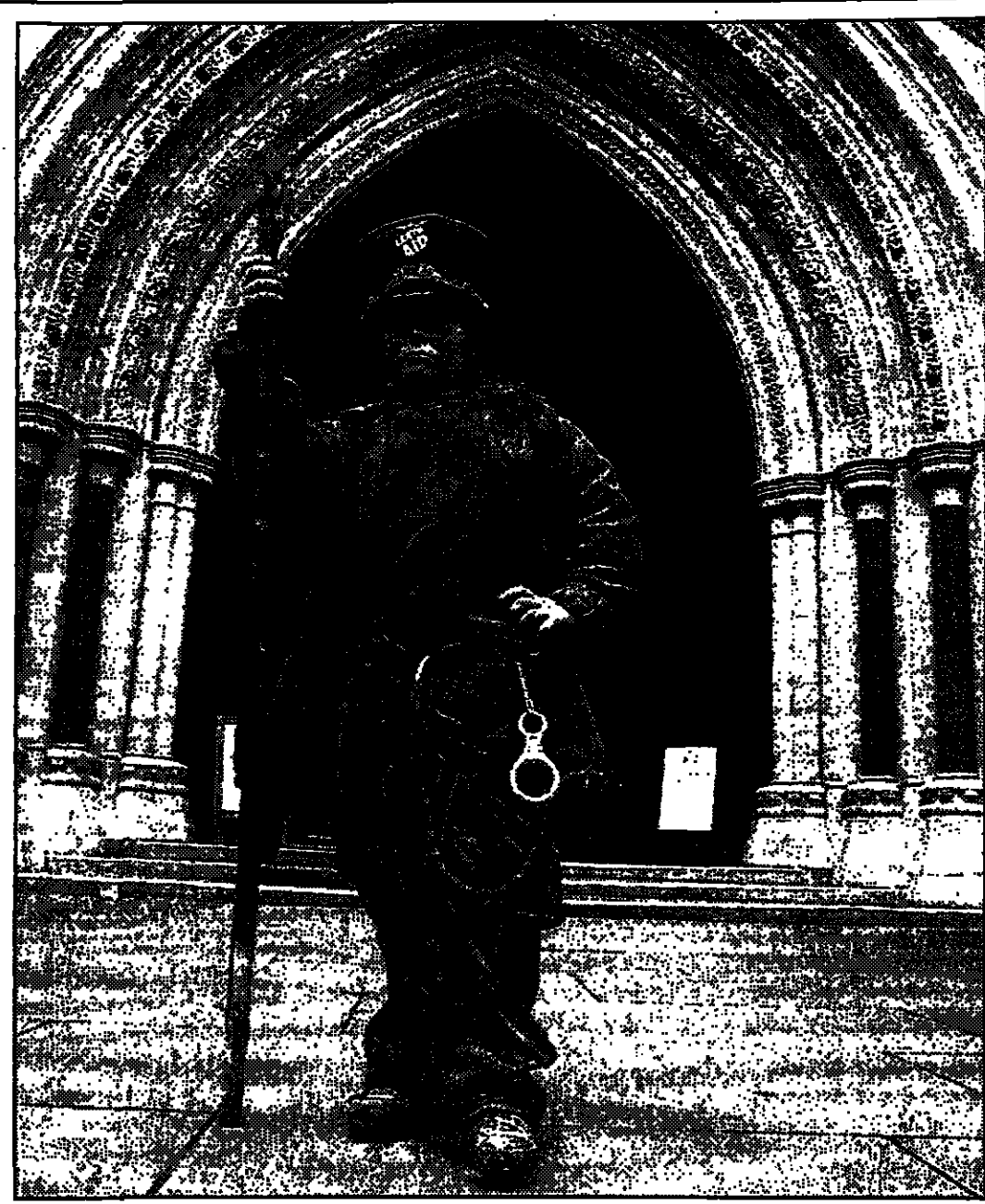
In a speech to the annual conference of the ruling Labor party, Cook signalled he wanted to build on the breakthrough achieved last month in Britain's relations with Iran, which formally dropped its threat to the life of author Salman Rushdie.

"For Britain it means a fresh start with Iran and with the wider Islamic world," he said, describing this as one of the most fundamental challenges the country faced.

He said Europe's standing had been damaged in the Islamic world "because we appear not to defend the human rights of Muslim people in the Balkans," — a reference to Western prevarication over conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo.

"I want to build on our new relationship a wider dialogue between the West and the Islamic world to promote understanding and to combat prejudice," Cook declared.

The theory that the world is moving towards a "clash of civilizations," an inevitable conflict between the West and Islam replacing the East-West Cold War, was first set out by US political scientist Samuel Huntington in the early 1990s in a book of the same name.



Woodman, spare that tree

Matthew Williamson, 11, known as Gen. Survival, stands outside London's High Courts of Justice yesterday, before the start of his case in which he is seeking to overturn an order permitting developers to fell a treehouse in which he lives with his mother. (AP)

US has new anti-terror agency

By LAURA MYERS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon launched a new agency yesterday to deal with modern-day threats of weapons of mass destruction by consolidating Cold War-era agencies that focused mostly on keeping Moscow in line.

"Today's harsh reality is too powerful to ignore — at least 25 countries have, or are in the process of developing, nuclear, biological or chemical weapons and the means to deliver them," Defense Secretary William Cohen said in a statement.

"We must confront these threats in places like Baghdad before they come to our shores," he said.

Creation of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency with the start of the new fiscal year is part of Cohen's plan to streamline the Defense Department by reducing duplication and trimming its 130,000 work force by one-fifth in five years.

In this case, however, no jobs will be lost by combining the Defense Special Weapons Agency, the On-Site Inspection Agency and the Defense Technology Security Administration.

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Balding Barbie at center of \$200,000 lawsuit

BALTIMORE (AP) — A Barbie doll is at the center of a lawsuit in which a Canadian collector claims a rare 1960s version of the doll she bought over the Internet arrived with a severe case of chrome dome.

Janice Amundson, a Barbie collector from Red Deer, Alberta, said she bought the doll in March from a Maryland woman for \$1,800.

"When she opened the box that was delivered in the mail, she found that the doll's hair had gotten brittle and was falling out," said Joseph Hovemill, her lawyer. "It was not in the near-mint condition she'd been led to believe."

Lori Maddox, who lives in Somerset County, sold the doll and said Amundson tried to dye its faded hair, causing the hair to fall out.

"It was in perfect condition when I mailed it to her, and I have pictures to prove it," Maddox said Wednesday. "If anything happened to that doll, it was either caused by Mrs. Amundson or an act of God."

The doll is a "Color Magic" Barbie sold by Mattel in the late 1960s. It features hair that could be dyed blond or black; its black hair had faded to a reddish color, Maddox said.

Amundson said Maddox refused to refund her money and posted a message on an Internet auction site saying Amundson had spoiled the doll's condition.

"Mrs. Amundson has been humiliated in front of a worldwide audience" because of the Internet message, said the September 24 lawsuit, which seeks \$200,000 from Maddox for breach of contract and defamation.

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and
JDC-Israel
deeply mourn the untimely passing of

CORINNE "Corky" RIBAKOFF ז"ל

Beloved wife of Eugene Ribakoff, Chairman of JDC's Israel Committee, and mother of Charles Ribakoff and of JDC Board member, Betsy R. Sheerr.

A woman of valor and lover of Israel and the Jewish people.

Jonathan W. Kolker Michael Schneider
President Executive Vice President
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We deeply mourn the passing of

MARK ORMONDE ז"ל

איש צדק, תם וישר

Sincere condolences
to our dear and devoted chavera,
Nina Ormonde and her family.

Hana Melamed Yehuda Kohn Rochel Sylvetsky
Chairman and the children Chairman
World Emunah of Beit Elazraki Emunah - Israel

סדרה מן האמל

Schroeder eyes early confirmation

By ROBERT MAHONEY

BONN (Reuters) — Gerhard Schroeder said yesterday coalition talks with the left-wing Greens party should lead to his confirmation as German chancellor by parliament on October 27.

Schroeder, who crushed Helmut Kohl in Sunday's general election, said initial contacts with the Greens had unfolded in a "friendly atmosphere".

Schroeder's center-left Social Democrats begin formal negotiations on Friday with the ecologists, who want four ministries. Both parties will then endorse the agreement at special conferences.

"We've agreed that we want to negotiate very swiftly, not least because the Greens will decide on the result at a party conference on October 23 and the SPD on October 25," Schroeder told reporters after the three-hour lunch meeting.

The Bundestag, or lower house of parliament, would vote on October 27 whether to install him as Germany's seventh chancellor since World War Two.

If Schroeder concludes a pact with the Greens, he will have a 21-seat majority in the house. He needs more than half the deputies' votes to be elected.

"Personnel matters were not discussed," Schroeder said, referring

to speculation about cabinet appointments.

"First we'll agree on a solid well-financed joint program, then the structure of the new cabinet will be discussed and then we will come to personnel matters." The SPD and Greens agree on the broad outlines of job and tax policy but differ on nuclear energy and the deployment of German troops in peacekeeping abroad.

Schroeder emerged from the talks with Greens parliamentary leader Joschka Fischer. "I can't complain," Fischer said, when asked about the mood of the talks.

SPD officials confirmed newspaper reports that Bodo Hombach,

Schroeder's senior campaign adviser and currently economics minister in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, would be named to the influential post of chancellor minister.

Speculation about the other portfolios in Germany's first center-left government in 16 years was rampant.

Bild, the country's biggest-selling newspaper, gave a number of predictions. It said Fischer, 50, would be foreign minister and SPD chairman Oskar Lafontaine finance minister.

Computer entrepreneur Jost Stollmann will head a economics and technology ministry, Bild added.



Gerhard Schroeder (AP)

NEWS

in brief

Israeli among missing in Uganda crash

KAMPALA (AP) — Ugandan soldiers have reportedly located the wreckage of a small plane that disappeared last week, and the Israeli embassy in Nairobi confirmed yesterday that an Israeli businessman, Zeev Schiff, was among five people on board who are missing.

The government-owned New Vision newspaper reported that there was no sign of the pilot or the four passengers, including a high-ranking military officer. Citing a senior security official, it said the nine-seater twin-engine plane crashed into the eastern slopes of the Rwenzori Mountains about 3,000 feet above sea level, near Kisonoro, a trading town 270 kilometers west of the capital Kampala. The newspaper said it was feared the passengers may have been abducted by rebels operating in the area.

Italian Com. leader hints vote against budget

ROME (AP) — Italy's hard-line Communist leader suggested yesterday that his party would vote against the 1999 budget, a move that could bring down Premier Romano Prodi's center-left government.

"Among Communist Refoundation's members throughout the country, negative judgments clearly prevail," Fausto Bertinotti said at a gathering of foreign correspondents.

Bertinotti reiterated his stance that the budget proposal does not include strong enough measures to stimulate job creation, especially in Italy's depressed south, where the unemployment rate is more than 20 percent.

However, he said Refoundation will make a final decision on how to vote during a national congress over the weekend.

US: Slovak election signals will for change

BRATISLAVA (Reuters) — The US State Department yesterday greeted the defeat of Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar's government in a weekend general election as proof of a will for a change in the troubled post-communist country.

"The election was a clear statement of the desire of the Slovak people for change," the State Department said in a statement released by the US Embassy in Bratislava. "We urge all concerned to make the transfer of power to a new government in an orderly and expeditious manner."

The election was won by a four-party coalition committed to revitalizing Slovak democracy and closer ties with the West.

On Wednesday night, Meciar finally conceded defeat and announced he would not participate in any future government in any capacity.

Cruise shows he is a real-life action hero

LONDON (Reuters) — Hollywood star Tom Cruise was hailed as a real-life action hero yesterday after he ran to help a neighbor being mugged on a London street.

The star of *Mission Impossible* and *Top Gun* sped to the rescue of Rita Simmonds, who was being robbed of 90,000 pounds worth of jewellery when stepping out of her sports car.

"Tom was brilliant. He rushed down the road with his bodyguards and chased the attackers away," she told the *Evening Standard* yesterday.

The thieves fled after ripping a ring, watch and earrings from the terrified woman.

A police spokesman said: "Tom Cruise was in the vicinity when he heard the screams and came to the aid of Mrs Simmonds by scaring off the suspects." Cruise and his Australian wife Nicole Kidman have been living in London for the past year while making a new film with Stanley Kubrick.

Russia considers Soviet-style finance plan

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

MOSCOW (AP) — Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov yesterday denied that his government plans to prohibit Russians from buying US dollars and other foreign currencies, and urged the International Monetary Fund to continue disbursing an economic bailout package.

Primakov's statement followed Russian media reports that the government was considering an economic plan that would effectively reverse free-market reforms by imposing Soviet-style currency restrictions and increasing the number of rubles in circulation.

"All talk about a Draconian law allegedly being developed by the cabinet which would give the government a monopoly in foreign currency dealings is not worth an eggshell," Primakov said, according to Russian news agencies.

Primakov refused to comment on Russian media reports about plans to dramatically boost the money supply to pay such things as overdue wages and pensions and subsidies to ailing industries. He said a government delegation would fly to the US today for talks on the issue with the IMF.

Primakov also strongly urged the IMF to deliver a previously negotiated \$4.3 billion loan that was put on hold after the Russian financial crisis hit in August.



Fireworks for China

Fireworks light up the skies over Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor yesterday as the former British colony celebrated China's National Day.

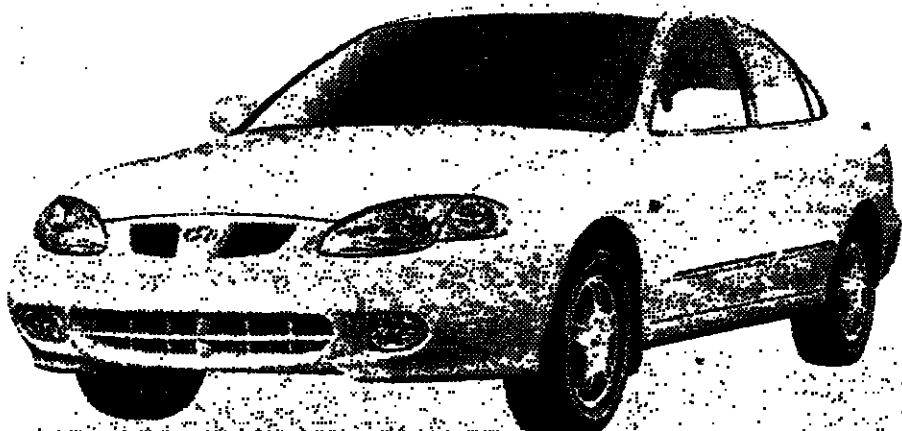
(AP/Anat Givoni)

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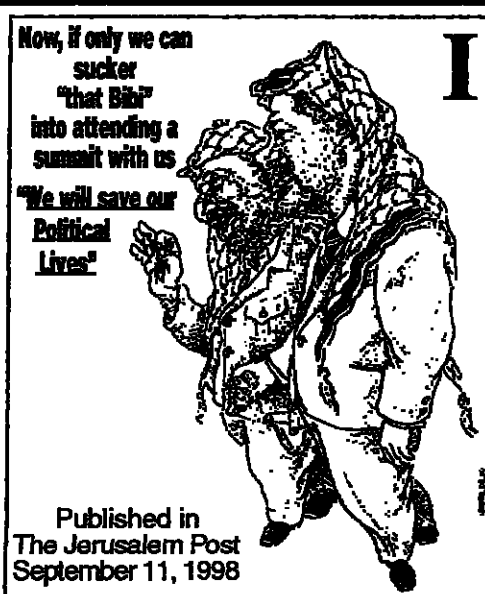
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Laboring along

In this anti-political age, it is often an asset for a politician not to be a politician. In Israeli politics, Yitzhak Rabin most successfully and authentically represented the anti-political politician. As another leader who came to politics from the military, Ehud Barak has consciously tried to follow Rabin's model of anti-political leadership. The latest flap over the Jerusalem mayor's race illustrates Barak's problem, however: He has not compensated for his lack of political skills by providing an alternative model for effective leadership.

Some time ago, Barak tried to draft popular Labor leader Uzi Baram to run against incumbent Likud mayor Ehud Olmert. Reportedly convinced by polls at the time that he would not win, Baram refused, and former Labor minister Shimon Shetret announced his candidacy on the independent One Jerusalem list.

Barak decided to support Shetret's candidacy, even though the local Labor leadership in Jerusalem opposed the decision, arguing that Shetret would lose resoundingly. Barak, understandably, saw no alternative but to back Olmert's main opponent, despite Shetret's lack of political viability.

Haim Cohen, the leader of the local Labor branch, still had not given up on Baram running, even though elections were only about a month ahead and Shetret signs were already plastered across the city. Cohen, whose appeal of his conviction of bribery and theft was dismissed by the Supreme Court in 1993, went to Shimon Peres for help.

Peres, who always seems to have time between his many trips abroad to challenge Barak's leadership, took up Cohen's cause. This week, Peres reportedly presented Baram with what amounted to an ultimatum - either you jump in the race or Cohen and I will support Olmert, in exchange for a place for Cohen on the ticket.

Of course, Peres's idea of supporting Olmert once again reveals a man who, while styling himself as the ultimate visionary, is also capable of almost blinding cynicism. Evidently, goals such as humiliating Barak and ensuring a municipal job for one of his cronies rank above the peace process on Peres's list of priorities. It is hard to otherwise explain his support for Olmert, who ironically was a principle architect of the "Peres will divide Jerusalem" campaign that Peres calls slanderous and blames for his 1996 election defeat.

Baram, did in fact agree, reportedly at the urg-

ing of Peres and Cohen, to run at this late date - if Barak would back him and Shetret would withdraw from the race. When Shetret refused to withdraw, Baram withdrew his brief and conditional candidacy.

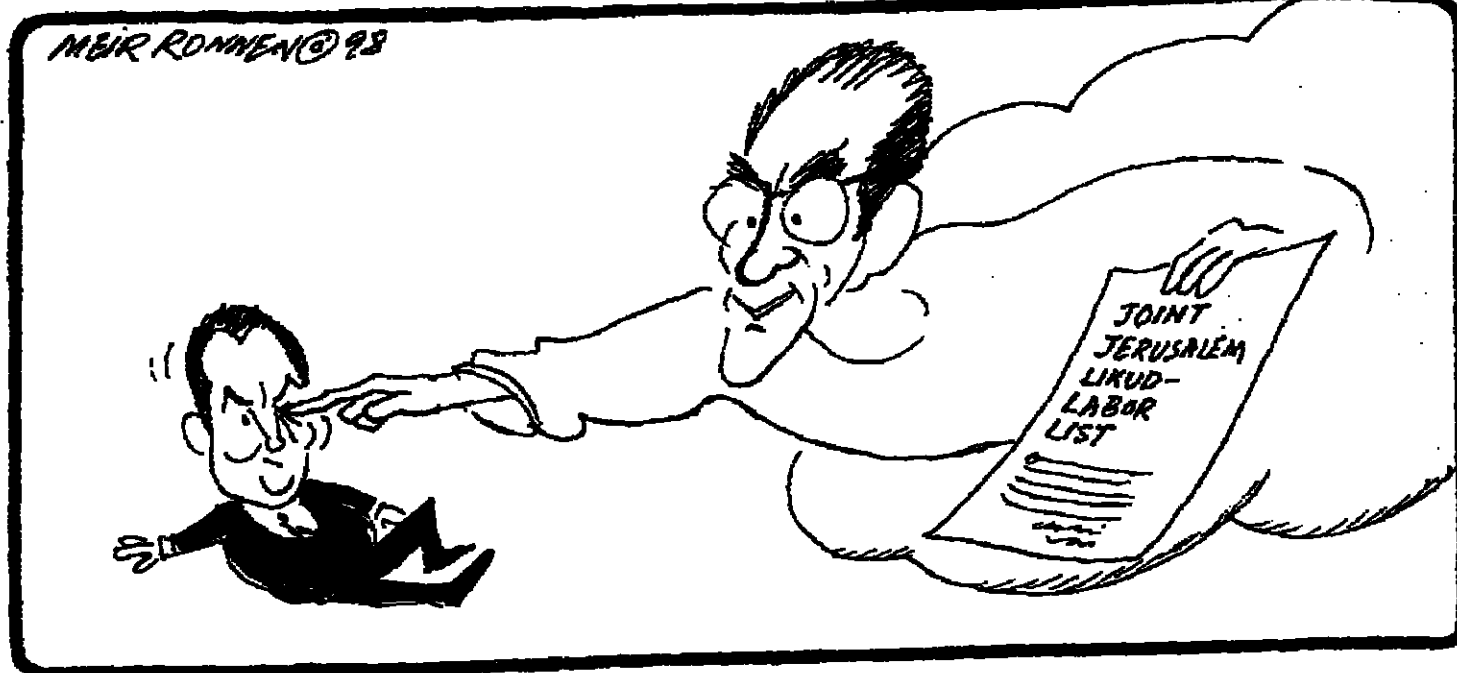
Barak, it seems, cannot win. In the Tel Aviv mayor's race, he was attacked for abandoning the party cause by seeking a deal with Roni Milo, rather than fielding a Labor candidate or endorsing independent candidate Ron Huldai. In Jerusalem, he takes the opposite tack and resists cutting a deal with Olmert. The local party machine and Peres attack him for not cynically abandoning ideology to divide up the electoral spoils.

It is unclear what yesterday's decision by the Labor party to remove Cohen from his post and disband the local branch means for the deal that was concluded with Olmert (in which Cohen and his associates would receive slots 4, 6, 10, and 11 on Olmert's list). The absurd result is that the national Labor Party may be officially divorced from its four representatives in the municipal government of the nation's capital.

The result of these shenanigans would seem to be the worst of all worlds for Barak and the Labor Party. Going down with the flag flying, or acting as if joining the other side represents a unity of purpose, are both viable political strategies. Combining the two, however, simply looks foolish, particularly when Barak is seen as vacillating and failing to lead in either direction.

Along the way, the citizens of Jerusalem are deprived of a clear cut choice for leadership of the city, at a time when discontent with Olmert is higher than his electoral strength would belie. A few months ago, polls indicated that Baram would receive at least 40 percent of the votes in a head-to-head contest with Olmert, and had an outside chance of winning. A poll published on September 18 in the local weekly *Kol Ha'ir* found Olmert leading Shetret 48 to 17%. Yet the same poll found that 46% believed the city was being run in a "corrupt" manner, including one-third of those who said they would vote for Olmert.

Mayor Olmert is widely perceived as holding national aspirations, and widely accused of harnessing Jerusalem's delicate and politically charged situation to his larger political quest. A more competitive race, whatever the outcome, would be a strong signal to the next mayor that there is a price to be paid for using Jerusalem as a political stepping stone.



The blessed national consensus

What was achieved by the crisis between Israel and the Palestinian Authority over Yasser Arafat's speech in the UN?

The most significant achievement was in the internal Israeli domain. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor Party leader Ehud Barak expressed a national consensus by their determined opposition to Arafat's plot to proclaim his intention to declare unilaterally the establishment of a Palestinian state in the UN General Assembly. This was more important than the change that Arafat made to the draft of his speech.

It's true that the US support of Israel's position, which opposes any unilateral action as opposed to a bilateral agreement, was very significant, but the display of unity by the government and the principal opposition party was of prime importance. It contributed to the US taking a stand with Israel on the subject.

In the first instance Arafat didn't intend to proclaim the establishment of a Palestinian state from the UN platform. He only intended to raise support from UN member states for the Palestinian state after it arises. The threat of a unilateral action was intended as a challenge to Israel, saying that whatever the results of the negotiations on the permanent settlement, he will proclaim a Palestinian state.

By spreading the rumor that his UN speech would enrage the Israelis and was liable to destroy the Oslo process, Arafat gained a bargaining chip for the discussions with the Americans, who urged him to refrain from his planned provocation.

Arafat didn't give in easily to the Americans, but bargained with them at length, demanding a

diplomatic price whose cost will only become known at the trilateral, Camp David-style meeting. With great sophistication, he created eager anticipation for his speech and succeeded in giving himself a moderate image that he will need for his next steps.

In fact, he didn't make a single concession. In his speech, he still spoke about the Palestinian state that will be established on May 4, 1999, at the end of the five-year

MOSHE ZAK

IN THE FINAL analysis, Arafat didn't give up his intention to proclaim unilaterally the establishment of a Palestinian state. His only concession was not to give an advance warning that this would happen, and it isn't certain that he ever intended to fulfill his threat to do so at this time, since this would have given Netanyahu grounds to break off negotiations on the second pullback.

It's hard to guess what would

What does Israel achieve by its opposition to Arafat's threats on unilateral proclamation of a Palestinian state?

interim period. The fact is that he said everything that he planned to say, without using the phrase "proclaiming the state unilaterally." He didn't give up his intention to introduce a motion in the current General Assembly session calling for the United Nations support for the establishment of a Palestinian state, even if its proclamation will not be part of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the permanent settlement.

Arafat has already managed to lay the foundations for a UN resolution on a Palestinian state. The bloc of non-aligned countries, a majority of the UN, has already resolved at its recent summit conference in Durban, South Africa, in favor of a Palestinian state. The conference took an additional step when it recommended that Palestine should be accepted as a member of the UN in the current General Assembly session (which will last until September 1999).

have happened at Netanyahu and Arafat's meeting with President Clinton, if it had not been preceded by the bargaining with Arafat. It appears that his willingness to discuss the content of his speech with the Americans gave him an image of moderation, which he intended to exploit to increase what America would give him in return.

But he also told the Americans that if they don't give in to his demands, he had another option: In his speech to the UN, he spoke of an international conference to reach an Israeli-Arab settlement. Something unacceptable to the US.

The exaggerated concentration on Arafat's words has given an incorrect impression that there has been a change in relations. What is essential, however, is not the speech, but the actions that will follow. The question is not whether a Palestinian state will arise, but whether it will arise in a provocative form that challenges

Israel or as part of an agreement.

Even the Israeli politicians who held in the past that a Palestinian state is the ultimate objective of the permanent settlement, expressed their opposition to Arafat's intention to unilaterally proclaim its establishment. That is a challenge not only to Israel, but also to the Oslo Accords, which require negotiations on the permanent settlement.

Anyone who gives up the bilateral basis of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement is liable to prepare the ground for the PA to pass laws that endanger the Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria, and is liable to prompt the PA to try to unilaterally determine its border with Israel.

Anyone who doesn't want conflict between the Palestinian Police and the IDF over travel on Israeli roads or wants to prevent military conflict over the extent of the borders must prevent the custom that Arafat wants to establish, using the date of the end of the interim period as a club to force concessions.

The display of unity by Israeli society in its opposition to unilateral actions by the Palestinians is praiseworthy. Even those who believe that we should come to terms with the idea of a Palestinian state cannot ignore the dangerous precedent for the future of relations between neighbors. They cannot ignore the legal expertise of the man who drafted the Oslo Accords that the unilateral proclamation of a Palestinian state is annulling the agreement.

The national consensus on this principle contains a signal to the Palestinians, a message for the Americans and, most of all, a ray of hope for Israeli society, which despite its many internal disagreements, knows how to unite around principles vital for its security.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE HUMAN FACTOR

Sir, - I read with interest and dismay Eliezer Jaffe's article "A new era for adoptions" (September 25) describing new and formal regulation of international adoptions. I well understand the need for some type of intervention on behalf of young couples who may be entering a legal and experiential arena that is complicated and, at times, perilous financially if not otherwise. However, I feel compelled to write on behalf of the children awaiting adoption as well as those not yet born who will need a loving adoptive family.

My husband and I adopted two little boys from South America four years ago.

By chronological standards, we are not a young couple. However, there are factors that balance out that - some would say - deficit. We are financially secure, with no pressures of that sort. Neither of

us has to work at regular jobs; as a result, we devote all our free time, which is ample, to the children. When the children are on vacation, the family is free to be together. Both of us have already satisfied yearnings that sometimes compete with child-rearing time and energy among younger parents, to wit: continuing education, travel, volunteer work. I also believe that our children benefit from our experiences and perspective of a full life already lived.

Furthermore, concern regarding the age of adoptive parents should be weighed against concern for the future of the children awaiting adoption. What future would our children have had, had they not been adopted, God forbid? Inadequate food and housing, poor health, dirty conditions, certainly no intellectual life, and how much future at all? They are, in their present environment, healthy, intelligent - typical kids enjoying life.

Many individuals turning to international adoption have done so precisely because of very strict age limitations here in Israel (not to mention the small number of babies available for adoption). Many of the children adopted from abroad are not newborn: one of our children was one year old. What will be the fate of these beautiful and intelligent innocents if current laws exclude loving prospective parents solely on the basis of their age?

I hope and pray that each case of an individual or individuals who come forth wanting to love and raise children from abroad will be considered on the basis of its merits and not because of rigid rules and regulations which exclude the human factor.

NAME WITHHELD

ANOTHER MS. MAYOR

Sir, - Thank you for devoting a whole page to women candidates in the forthcoming mayoral elections ("Ms. Mayor," September 25) and to Allison Kaplan Sommer for her as usual insightful and comprehensive treatment of the subject.

But the coverage was incomplete due to the omission of Herzliya's mayoral candidate, Yael German, a member of the city council. Ms. German's valiant efforts in single-handedly fighting obvious municipal irregularities have received considerable coverage in past editions of *The Jerusalem Post*.

It is thanks to Ms. German that the residents of Herzliya will not

have to foot the bill for Mayor Eli Landau's marina trial legal expenses, and thanks to her that the minister of the interior ordered a new planning and building committee be formed, comprising members of all the factions in the municipality, instead of the three members with possibly vested interests. Ms. German's petitions to the High Court resulted in the cancellation of numerous irregular tenders, and she was instrumental in bringing about a change in the Hevra Kadisha in Herzliya, obliging it to inscribe the Gregorian date on tombstones, should the families so desire. The list goes on.

Perhaps she was not featured in your article because you were not

aware she was running. Indeed, she entered the race relatively late, but has risen meteorically in the polls, starting at 3 percent and tripling her support to 10%-11% within just five weeks. Right now Ms. German stands at third place in the race, with her popularity rising daily.

I have no doubt that your readers - women and men alike, Herzliya residents and others - would like and deserve to hear more about this remarkable person who can serve as a role model as we strive for quality management in our cities and government.

ROSANNA MILSTEIN Herzliya.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On October 2, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that immigrants reaching Palestine had no difficulty in finding employment. Work in Jerusalem alone had been found in the past six months for 900 newcomers from Germany. The Jerusalem Labor Exchange couldn't satisfy the persistent

demands for employees. The same story was told of Haifa where four buildings were held up for lack of workers. While big housing schemes couldn't be started for the same reason.

25 years ago: On October 2, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Israel's premier,

Golda Meir, told the meeting of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg that the Austrian decision to close the Schoenau transit camp for Soviet Jewish immigrants was a "great encouragement" to terrorism throughout the world.

Alexander Zivelli

POSTSCRIPT

THEY LAUNCHED a glamorous but hazardous career at the dawn of the space age. The US Air Force chimpanzees captivated millions with their snazzy astronaut suits and spacecraft maneuvers during two 1961 journeys into space.

But in the decades since, the astrochimps and their descendants became military dead weight. Recently, the Air Force officially

announced 141 chimps would be retired from active duty next year, victims of military belt-tightening and downsizing.

"Typically the Air Force auctions off excess equipment," said Col. Jack Blackhurst, project manager for the chimpanzee divestment. "In this case, because of the number of chimpanzees and the fact there aren't a whole lot of interested

organizations, it was a much more difficult problem."

After a controversial bidding process to seek caretakers, the Air Force announced 30 chimps will be retired to Primarily Primates, a private sanctuary in San Antonio, Texas. The 111 others will enter civilian life as biomedical research subjects with the Coulston Foundation, which has been

charged twice by the Department of Agriculture with alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act related to chimp deaths.

The two other organizations bidding for the chimps, Chimp Haven and the Institute of Captive Chimpanzee Care and Well-Being, were unable to raise the \$10.6 million estimated to be necessary to support the chimps.

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GERALD M. ST

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Deal with Saddam first

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Once again, it appears that the end game in this round of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations is near.

Following the series of meetings in New York and a photo opportunity at the White House to help President Clinton's rehabilitation campaign, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed to intensive American-led mediation.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and special envoy Dennis Ross are coming back to the region for more talks, to be followed by a "Camp David-style summit" in the US.

Despite the sudden increased level of American involvement,

Saddam's illegal arsenal. The charge against Saddam was that he was leaking information to Israel (in reality, it was Israel that was providing information to Saddam, so that he could do his job).

AMID the apparent collapse of American resolve - which totally undermines the credibility of Albright's talk about keeping Saddam in his box - the Iraqis expelled the UN inspectors. Each day without these inspections brings Saddam closer to regaining his arsenal and the ability to attack not only Israel, but also Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the American bases in the region.

For over seven years, despite

The dangers to peace and stability in the Middle East and the world posed by Iraq are far greater than the unfinished negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians

there are many obstacles to an agreement. Beyond the lack of trust and continued terrorism, the unresolved problems of Iraq and Saddam Hussein are always in the background.

Over seven-and-a-half years after the 1991 cease-fire agreement and the beginning of UN inspections, the US appears to have tired of the game, and Saddam senses victory. The threat of renewed Iraqi terror and aggression hangs over the entire Middle East, and unless the Americans wake up and take their responsibilities seriously again, their ability to extract concessions from Israel and the Palestinians will disappear completely.

Following the 1991 war, the Iraqis began an extensive program of deceit and concealment aimed at preserving their missiles, chemical and biological weapons facilities, and nuclear program. It took the UN inspectors several years to follow the Iraqi trail, as Saddam built huge palaces and used the vast area of his country to hide the evidence.

In 1995, the inspectors received a major break when Saddam's son-in-law defected briefly to Jordan, and provided details of the Iraqi shell game, before returning to Baghdad where he was promptly executed. Since then, the trail has become much warmer, and one of the inspectors, Scott Ritter, was able to crack the Iraqi code.

However, just as the Iraqis were about to be caught in the act, the Clinton administration got cold feet. After Iraq triggered a crisis in February, the US sent UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to Baghdad to work out a "compromise" with Saddam. As a result, the Iraqis bought more time to expand their concealment program.

When the inspectors closed in again, Washington ordered them to avoid confrontation. Clinton was too busy defending himself before the grand jury and special prosecutor, and the threat from Iraq would have to wait.

Furthermore, the American government decided to open an investigation against Scott Ritter, the UN inspector who was most avid in perusing

all of the inspections, the Iraqi nuclear design team has remained intact, and three (or perhaps four, according to different reports) nuclear bomb shells are still ready. If Saddam is able to obtain a few kilograms of enriched uranium or separated plutonium on the black market (and there are tons in Russia, guarded by underpaid or unpaid soldiers), he will have a nuclear arsenal.

The dangers to peace and stability in the Middle East and the world posed by Iraq are far greater than the unfinished negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Unless there is swift and effective action to end Saddam's cat-and-mouse game with the UN inspectors, there is no sense in pressing Israel for concessions to Arafat and the Palestinians.

Similarly, if Iraq is allowed to defy the US and the world, and is allowed to renege on its explicit commitments to destroy all missiles and weapons of mass destruction, as specified under the 1991 cease-fire agreement, the Arab states and Palestinians will not take the Americans seriously in any other sphere.

Before attempting to broker a deal between Israelis and Palestinians, and stage another White House signing ceremony (timed, conveniently, before the upcoming congressional elections), the Clinton administration must deal firmly with the Iraqi threat. Repeated speeches pledging to preserve Israel's vital security requirements lose their credibility when there is no visible action to back them up.

When Ross and Albright come calling on Netanyahu, the Iraqi problem should get top priority. Once that issue is solved, the Americans can then ask Netanyahu to take the necessary risks, both political and military, to keep the Oslo process alive.

If Washington wakes up in time to protect not only Israel's security, but also its own interests in stopping Saddam's dangerous game of concealment and deceit, Netanyahu will be able to justify concessions on other fronts.



'Hillul Hashem'

MICHAEL MARMUR

One of the great things about living in Israel is that we get to see how the treasures of Judaism are imparted to the next generation. Here, in our own land with our own language, the accumulated wisdom of the ages can be soaked up by eager youths, imbued with their mother's milk.

Or can it? Fifty years into the great adventure of Jewish sovereignty, we can point to one term from the lexicon of Jewish tradition which has been learned well and thoroughly by Jews of every stripe - *hillul Hashem*. Literally translated as the desecration of God's name, in our traditional sources the term covers a multitude of meanings. In essence it refers to that which serves to cheapen and undermine all that is good and wholesome and holy.

When a great act of courage or virtue is performed, the name of God is sanctified. When we behave in a tawdry or scandalous fashion, that name is desecrated. To qualify for the title of *hillul Hashem*, it is not enough that an action be wrong or negative; it must be perverse, contrary, and spectacularly grotesque.

When such an act is performed in the name of Judaism, then we have a clear case of *hillul Hashem*. There is evidence of *hillul Hashem* all around. It was exemplified this past week in my Jerusalem neighborhood.

Walking home from synagogue on Yom Kippur Eve, we could discern a significant police presence. Our first thoughts were of Hamas terror, but it soon became clear that the law enforcement officers had been dragged away from their own Yom Kippur devotions to protect motorists from local Jewish youths armed with stones.

At the time of writing, it is still not clear to me if this lunacy will be allowed to pass. If it does, consider the full perversion of the situation. The *lulav* and the *etrog* represent wholeness and totality; the succa welcomes all into its portals. But if the scheme comes to fruition, women will be barred access to the point of sale. Perhaps we should only buy two species this year to highlight the absurdity. If the rumor is true, *hillul Hashem* strikes again.

There is so much both profound and wondrous in Jewish culture and tradition, yet most Israeli youngsters learn little of it. Instead, it is this most negative phrase which they see illustrated time and again.

Every time an act of barbarism is wrapped in a prayer shawl, and every time a representative of Judaism (of any denomination) performs terrible deeds, society's tolerance of *hillul Hashem* becomes a little greater.

There are efforts to provide an alternative.

For instance, some rabbis and congregations did try to discourage the stone-throwers in my neighborhood. It is time for these efforts to be increased greatly, so that society as a whole may learn the meaning of some of Judaism's greatest ideas and principles.

What would happen if every man and woman in this country were encouraged, without coercion, to find his/her own way to sanctify, and not to desecrate?

What would happen if there was more soul-searching and less stone-throwing? Can we find a way to let the Four Species symbolize tolerance and inclusivism? These questions and others face us as we face the coming 50 years of sovereignty.

IT MAY BE that on yet a different level another desecration awaits those of us who go in search of the Four Species, the *arba minim* of the Succot festival, in the Jerusalem area in the coming days.

There are moves afoot to ban women from one of the markets where these species are sold. Apparently the presence of women in the market is a hindrance to the fulfillment of the mitzva in its fullest sense. For some, it appears, a religious law has not been fully obeyed until half the population has been alienated.

connection to the material world, we thereby deepen our awareness of our relationship to God.

The Talmud explicitly connects the succa to reduced emphasis on the material world. It interprets the verse "I caused the Children of Israel to dwell in booths when I took them out of Egypt" to mean that poverty suits the Jewish people. Only by throwing off our bondage to the physical world do we escape the spiritual depravity of Egypt.

Peace and unity are an outgrowth of the redirection of vision that we experience by dwelling in the succa. Every night in our prayers we express this intrinsic relation between succa and unity when we request God to "spread over us Your succa of peace." That unity is, in turn, related to the special *simha*, rejoicing, of Succot.

Hebrew is not a language rich in synonyms, yet it has 10 terms for happiness. *Simha*, says the Vilna Gaon, refers to a constant internal state - a sense of well-being that derives from awareness of a connection to God.

Simha also describes a breaking down of barriers, of expansion through unification. Even our colloquial speech reflects this linkage of *simha* to expansion beyond our own finite boundaries. When we refer to *smahot*, we primarily

Middle Israel
AMOTZ ASA-EL

On being surprised

A quarter-century, one war, one intifada, and two-and-a-half peace agreements later, memories of the war - that war - still humiliate, revolt, and haunt us. Why?

Surely, the number of casualties - second only to the War of Independence - along with the logistical chaos and political failures which lurked behind them were unparalleled by any previous or subsequent event in this country's history. Moreover, the sharp transition we underwent from the pervasive sense of euphoria, arrogance, and invincibility which preceded October '73, to the collective depression, melancholy, and self-flagellation which followed it, add up to a trauma, which, by definition, is hard - if at all possible or advisable - to forget.

Set against this backdrop, we, like children suddenly grown furious at the parents they once blindly followed, naturally tend to seek a personal scapegoat (surely, we all agree, the fault could not have actually been ours), and the choice obviously falls, not without good reason, on Golda Meir.

Golda was the one who first rejected an Egyptian diplomatic initiative and then failed to generate an active, peace-seeking foreign policy. As such, she had no right to ultimately lay - as she has - exclusive blame for what had happened on the generals who failed to sniff the coming tempest.

After Golda comes Moshe Dayan, the arch-symbol of our post-'67 conceit, who during Golda's half-decade as prime minister acted as a super-chief of general staff, and as such was responsible for such memorable pronouncements as: "Better Sharm e-Sheikh without peace than peace without Sharm e-Sheikh."

Besides the politicians, there was also the army itself, which not only committed a gross intelligence debacle now studied in military academies the world over, but also failed to adequately prepare such wartime essentials as operational storage facilities.

Beyond all these, the worst failure was in our society's collective psyche, where the pre-'67 conceit of surprise, rife with Holocaust associations, had undergone such fundamental transformation that we altogether ceased to believe we could wake up to a national disappointment, not to mention calamity.

Yes, a cautious, insightful, and visionary leadership - if even it wouldn't have detected the coming typhoon - would at least have made it plain to the people that the enemy was no joke, and a future clash is both a prospect and no joke. But a poorly led nation cannot make do with blaming its leaders, which is why for the past 25 years we have been so diligently criticizing, ridiculing, and belittling much of what others admire us for.

NOW, one generation later, it's finally time to put things in perspective and realize that our strategic blunders pale in comparison with our foes'.

First, like this century's two other grand surprise attacks - Japan's assault on Pearl Harbor and Hitler's invasion of Russia - this one also ended in the attackers' defeat. Indeed, while the war evidently damaged Israel's deterrent power, it also exposed the

limits of the Arab armies' impact, when even under the near-ideal conditions of total surprise, initial air superiority, and Egyptian-Syrian coordination, they failed to stop the IDF from eventually closing in on Cairo and Damascus.

Geopolitically, the nearly pan-Arab choice in the 1950s to throw the anti-Israeli effort's lot with the USSR could hardly have been more misguided, leaving Arab armies with inferior equipment and allowing economies like Syria's and Algeria's to fall prey to disastrous agricultural collectivization and industrial nationalization schemes.

Anwar Sadat was visionary enough to make a timely U-turn from Soviet to American tutelage, but Hafez, Assad, Saddam Hussein, and Muammar Gaddafi were all caught by complete surprise by the demise of the USSR and are still stuck with antiquated Soviet-made equipment.

Israel, on the other hand, was clever enough to opt for Washington early on, even in the face of a politically powerful left flank led by a starry-eyed Mapam, which really believed Stalin's USSR was a pro-Jewish, workers' paradise.

The Arab effort of the 1970s also failed abysmally in its attempt to mobilize oil as a strategic weapon. That act of commercial terrorism, while initially successful, ultimately resulted in feverish exploration anywhere and everywhere between the North Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, instigated by the very price hikes caused by the Arab-led black-mail of the industrialized world.

Consequently, oil supplies soared and prices plunged, while some raw-material based Arab economies, which in their financial drunkenness failed to soberly diversify, reached the brink of bankruptcy. In the case of Iraq, the economy was not only linked to the tricky fate of a few raw materials, but also to the bloody and unpredictable consequences of its futile attacks on Iran, Kuwait, and the Kurds.

Meanwhile, the failure to forecast the end of the Cold War, and the demise of Soviet immigration policy which came with it, made Assad and Yasser Arafat find a far richer and more populous Israel at the negotiating table, when they finally got there, than they might have had they gotten there earlier.

Today, most Arab regimes are failing to emulate, maybe even to fathom, the economic edge Israel gains by allowing its economy to develop as freely as it does, while their systems remain largely statist, clannish, and corrupt.

Finally, in failing to take what Shimon Peres offered him in 1996, Assad committed a gross strategic error, after having apparently shackled himself to the *concepzia* that Peres, Yossi Beilin, and Uri Saviv were there to stay, only to wake up to a grayish morning with Bibi, Arik, and Rafal written all over it.

In this country, such strategic blunders would eventually face a commission of inquiry headed by a stern-faced judge like Shimon Agranat, groping for explanations.

But then, go explain to despots that the very ability to charge them for their failures would place in their people's hands the kind of strategic asset which makes Israel grow, invent and prosper while their domains languish in destitution.

Succot: The time of our rejoicing

There is a mitzva of rejoicing on each of the three pilgrimage festivals of the Jewish calendar. We are encouraged to have festive meals, with meat and wine, and husbands are enjoined to buy their wives new clothing or jewelry for the holiday.

Yet of the three festivals only Succot is specifically known as *zman simhateinu* - the time of our rejoicing.

When the Temple stood, this rejoicing was expressed in the dancing and celebrations connected to the water libations throughout the festival. And even today, Succot retains a special place in the hearts of Jews in Israel, as attested to by the succot going up everywhere, in religious and secular neighborhoods alike.

But what exactly is the special connection between Succot and joy? A hint to the answer lies in a puzzling midrash. The midrash asks why we begin building our succa immediately after the our judgment for the coming year was sealed on Yom Kippur. The midrash answers that perhaps the Jewish people received a judgment of exile, but in lieu of exile God accepts our leaving our homes and entering the succa.

To understand this midrash, we must first understand the meaning

of *galut*, exile. Our nearly 2,000-year exile began as a consequence of *sinat hinam*, causeless enmity, between Jews. Exile follows from *sinat hinam* not as a punishment, but to repair the failure of vision that gave rise to a lack of unity in the first place.

Sinat hinam, the habit of viewing our fellow Jews with a jaundiced eye, arises out of a view of the world as essentially an arena for competition over scarce goods. If we view the purpose of life as the acquisition of the largest possible slice of a fixed pie of material goods, then life becomes a zero sum game, in which someone else's victory is of necessity my loss.

In such a world, we are all competitors. The world of the spirit, by contrast, is not characterized by scarcity because its source is infinite. As a consequence, those whose primary focus is on spiritual matters do not experience life as unceasing competition.

IN A YESHIVA, for instance, the most respected students are those at the most elevated spiritual level. Rather than arousing jealousy, they arouse gratitude, for there is a recognition that every act of spiritual growth by one individual makes such growth easier for everyone else. In the world of the spirit, one

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

person's attainments do not impose limits on others; they increase the spiritual potential of everyone.

Exile is God's way of redirecting our focus from the material to

The habit of viewing our fellow Jews with a jaundiced eye arises out of a view of the world as essentially an arena for competition over scarce goods

the spiritual world. It deprives us of our sense of security in the material world in the most dramatic fashion possible. Exile thus serves as a corrective to the hatred engendered by viewing the world solely in terms of competition over material goods.

Entering the succa is itself a miniature exile. Halacha requires that the succa be an impermanent dwelling. We leave a dwelling of ostensible security for one lacking that quality. By diminishing our

connection to the material world, we thereby deepen our awareness of our relationship to God.

The Talmud explicitly connects the succa to reduced emphasis on the material world. It interprets the verse "I caused the Children of Israel to dwell in booths when I took them out of Egypt" to mean that poverty suits the Jewish people. Only by throwing off our bondage to the physical world do we escape the spiritual depravity of Egypt.

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Simha also describes a breaking down of barriers, of expansion through unification. Even our colloquial speech reflects this linkage of *simha* to expansion beyond our own finite boundaries. When we refer to *smahot*, we primarily

mean weddings and births - i.e., the joining of two formerly separate individuals and their transformation into a family.

The physical world is one of boundaries, of finite objects. By contrast, the spiritual world is one of unity, because it is linked to one infinite source. Awareness of that unity is the greatest source of joy in life, and at no time of the year is it more accessible than on Succot.

Our Sages say that one who never experienced Simhat Beit Hashoeva in the Temple never saw true rejoicing. Even today at a large Simhat Beit Hashoeva, with thousands wending around the room in concentric circles, hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, one can feel some hint of the melding of individuals into a collective unity that took place then.

The climax of the Simhat Beit Hashoeva in the times of the Temple was the pouring of the water libation on the altar, from which it flowed back to the same spring from which it was originally drawn - a never-ending cycle representing the connection to the eternal God, the well-spring of all existence.

May we all merit to learn the lesson of Jewish unity this Succot, so that we can experience it in the coming year.

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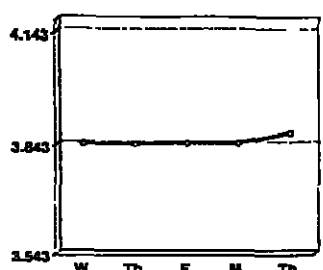
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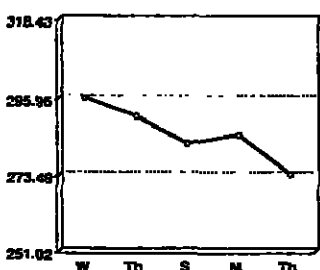
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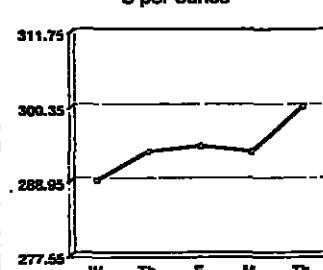
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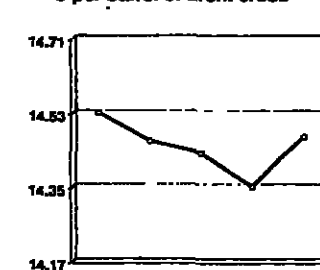
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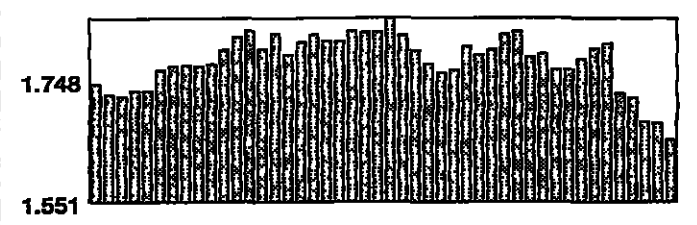
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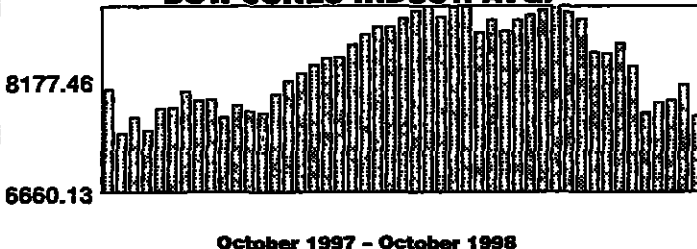
OIL



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Scitex subsidiary wins \$20m. French deal

A subsidiary of Scitex Corp has won a FF120 million (\$20m.) contract to supply high speed digital printing systems to the health branch of the French social security system, the company yesterday announced. Under the agreement Scitex Digital Printing will supply the systems to a special project which aims at reorganizing the communications process between the French body and the millions of subscribers who are covered by its health insurance plan. Scitex said that the system had for nearly four months evaluated several offers submitted by other leading high-speed digital printing equipment suppliers. Scitex will start delivering the equipment in November and is expected to complete the project within 24 months.

Dan Gerstenfeld

'98 diamond exports down 15%

Polished diamond exports fell 15 percent in the first nine months of the year to \$3.26 billion, from \$2.79b. a year ago, the Industry and Trade Ministry yesterday said.

The decline was attributed to economic instability in Southeast Asia where sales fell sharply.

The ministry said that in September exports fell some 30% to \$337 million from \$441m. Exports of rough diamonds fell during the last month by 47% to \$37m. from \$69m.

The United States continued to be the main market for Israeli diamonds as it imported 63% of production.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Treasury rejects Hapoalim option changes

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Finance Ministry has rejected a request of the Arison-Dankner Group to introduce changes in the options component of its stake in Bank Hapoalim.

Still, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday announced that the option given to the Arison-Dankner group to raise its stake in Bank Hapoalim by 7.16 percent had been extended by one week.

The Treasury said the group had asked for an extension because of the high holidays. It added that Neeman had decided to leave the conditions of the options program unchanged.

The decision came as a disappointment to the consortium which had hoped that the Treasury would improve the terms of the agreement by which it last year became the bank's controlling share holder.

Yesterday was the last day to exercise the first third of the options, according to the agreement signed when the Arison Group purchased its stake in Israel's largest bank last September.

At that time the group was given an 18-month option on an additional 21.5% of the bank for the same price.

It can be assumed that the Arison Group will refrain from realizing the option next week as the exercising price was set at NIS

9.9 per share while Bank Hapoalim's shares were traded yesterday at only NIS 9.08.

The group has reportedly asked the government to change the terms of the deal following the turmoil on global financial markets which also led to a sharp decline in the price of Hapoalim's share.

According to the report, Ted Arison, who heads the group, was the only one who was considering extending his stake. But he reportedly planned to exercise only a small number of options in a symbolic move aimed at demonstrating his commitment to the bank.

In the wake of the recent global market mayhem, Hapoalim shares have lost more

than 25% of value, after reaching an all-time high at the middle of June. The plunge forced the group to abandon a previous plan to sell part of its holdings in the bank abroad.

Group members hoped at that time to sell part of their shares on stock markets overseas, knowing they would be able to exercise the options to buy shares at a much lower price.

Besides Arison, the group includes the Israeli Dankner family, Len Abramson, the founder of US Healthcare Inc., veteran Wall Street financier Michael Steinhardt, Charles Shusterman and Hiperion Capital Management.

IMF chief: Powers must do more to halt global crisis

By HARRY DUNPHY

WASHINGTON (AP) — The US Federal Reserve made the right decision in cutting a key interest rate earlier this week, but global powers must now do more to provide badly needed confidence to halt a global economic crisis, the head of the International Monetary Fund said yesterday.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, briefing reporters on what could turn out to be pivotal annual meetings of the 182-nation lending organization, rejected suggestions that the IMF has badly handled the world currency crisis.

But he said the seven richest countries need to push for stronger growth to offset steep recessions in many Asian nations and Russia.

He praised the decision of the Federal Reserve to cut a key US interest rate by a quarter-point on Tuesday and suggested that European monetary authorities should take similar steps.

Asked why stock markets, particularly in the US, have reacted so negatively to the US central bank's rate cut, Camdessus said he believes confidence will soon be restored, especially if financial leaders show resolve in their discussions over the next week.

"If during the meeting, leaders take clear decisions and the G-7 takes the lead for growth to help countries out of crisis, then the markets will see this and not overreact," Camdessus said.

Camdessus said the discussions, which will get underway in earnest tomorrow with a meeting of finance ministers and central bank presidents from the seven largest industrial countries, should focus on ways to improve surveillance activities of the IMF so the agency can better spot troubles before they develop and review proposals to upgrade regulation of banks.

Poor bank supervision contributed to the currency crises that have leveled Russia and countries in Asia and are now threatening Latin America.

"If we want to make the world a better place, then we have to go for transparency, go for strengthening of financial and banking



IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus speaks to the press in Washington yesterday.

(AP)

systems, and the orderly integration of emerging markets into the world economy," Camdessus said.

The IMF took the lead in assembling more than \$100 billion in bailout packages for Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, and Russia, but has watched as the Asian nations have plunged into steeper recession.

And in August, a botched currency devaluation and partial default on foreign loans by Russia sparked a worldwide plunge in stock markets, and caused investors to begin fleeing many countries in Latin America.

Camdessus insisted that the IMF, based on its knowledge at the time, took the proper actions in trying to cope with a crisis that began in July 1997 in Thailand.

But he conceded that the speed

with which economic troubles in one country can infect markets half-a-world away has surprised him.

"The nature of the virus was so strong and so quick in so many places," he said. "We did not see... how the crisis in Russia could prompt the lack of confidence in Latin America two weeks later."

In addition to overhauling the architecture of the global financial system, finance officials will spend time in behind-the-scenes efforts to put together a rescue package of perhaps \$30 billion to bolster Brazil, the largest economy in South America and the latest country to feel the effects of panicked investors.

The threat that the current turmoil could turn into a global

recession was underscored by release Wednesday of an unusually sober economic forecast by the IMF.

If the US economy weakens more than expected, if Japan fails to end its recession, or capital flight from Latin America is not halted, then the world economy could be facing even bleaker prospects, IMF economists warned.

Japan will present plans later in the meetings to spend about \$30 billion to aid nations in Southeast Asia, where the financial troubles erupted 14 months ago.

Camdessus said that Japan, as the world's second largest economy, has to do its part to implement stimulus programs and banking reforms.

The IMF's "World Economic

Outlook" said that the economic turmoil has already cost millions of jobs and more than \$600 billion in lost output — the equivalent of a country the size of Canada shutting down for a year, the IMF said.

The revised forecast slashes its estimate of growth, projecting that the global economy will slow to a 2 percent growth rate this year, the poorest showing in seven years, with only a slight rebound to 2.5% growth in 1999. Both figures are a full percentage point below estimates IMF made just five months ago.

"Chances of any significant improvement in 1999 have also diminished, and the risks of a deeper, wider and more prolonged downturn have escalated," the IMF said.

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'Investors might lose interest in Jenin indust. park'

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

More than a year after construction should have commenced on the Jenin Industrial Estate, its developer yesterday called on Israel to allow work to begin.

Nafith Assas said that while

prospective investors are still supporting the project he fears they will soon lose interest.

Yesterday he appealed to the Civil Administration in the territories and the Industry and Trade Ministry for a change of heart.

"Please, this project was meant

to be for cooperation especially across the border, to support peace, to give the Palestinian economy a push forward. Look at it from the economic perspective only," Assas said.

Speaking to the Manufacturers Association, Assas said the initial 1,180 dunam site would house as

many as 100 factories, eventually creating up to 10,000 jobs. He told the meeting that a German feasibility study shows the project to be economically viable and marketable to investors.

The park would be constructed on the Palestinian side of the Green Line at Mukeibila, just to

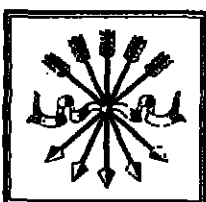
the north of Jenin, with its electricity and water supply coming from Israel.

Assas added that the management of the Matam Industrial Zone in Haifa has already agreed to work closely with the Jenin estate.

Assas was not prepared to go into detail about the difference between the two sides and an Industry and Trade spokesperson was unavailable for comment last night.

Ariel mayor Ron Nachman said there cannot be an industrial park attached to every village and town. "We must do business together," he said, inviting Palestinian and Israeli politicians and businesspeople to visit Ariel to discuss the creation of an industrial park between major population centers that would create thousands of jobs for both Palestinians and Israelis.

Turning to the Palestinian delegation at the meeting, Nachman said: "You have to overcome your reservations. I offer to work together with you. If you and I go together to the prime minister and [Industry and Trade Minister Natan] Sharansky and say we'll work together, it can work. Sharansky has said he is willing if you will say yes."



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Gold AM fix	Last	292	Change +4.5
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Amy Klein adds:
Johanan Bein, vice-chairman of
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other universities," he said. "It's
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period and draw the necessary

To declare or not to declare?

Arafat refrained this week from announcing the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on May 4. But Palestinians are busy paving the way at the UN for what they view as inevitable. **Danna Harman** reports from New York

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's day on the UN stage has come and gone. The combined power of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ongoing threats, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's continuing pleas, a Sunday bagel-and-cream-cheese brunch with left-wing American Jews and a Washington excursion to chat with US President Bill Clinton did the job: the chairman refrained from directly declaring his intention to call for Palestinian independence next May 4.

As Arafat stepped down from the UN podium on Monday, members of the Qatari mission tried to initiate a standing ovation, but no else stood up. The UN reporters packed into the General Assembly room balcony turned to one another to make sure they had not missed "it." And outside the building, security men standing beside concrete barriers and sand-filled garbage trucks, who had been told to expect "anything," sighed in relief and checked their watches to see if they would now be able to get home for dinner.

"It was a mountain that turned into a molehill," said a top official from Israel's UN mission.

"We have been concentrating on the matter of whether or not Arafat would declare statehood right here, right now for a long time. Now it is over, he used very careful language, and it's time to move on."

Even as the first Qatari was jumping to his feet, Netanyahu was on his way home to Jerusalem, sketching out in the front section of his plush new plane, and probably feeling pretty pleased.

"So what exactly happened these past five days?" a young security guard, who had been 25 centimeters away from Netanyahu during most of the trip, asked the crowd squashed into the back section of the plane.

"Nothing much," came the answer from the chorus of eight reporters, two soundmen, a dozen Prime Minister's Office workers, 127 security guys fiddling with their earphones and one doctor busy handing out sleeping pills.

TO SAY that "nothing" happened would be inaccurate. While Palestinians and Israelis, after rushing madly around New York and Washington for a few days, left with almost as many gaps between them as when they started, they did agree to what Clinton promised would be an intensive round of talks in Washington later this

month. But at the UN, much is happening all the time - most of it not to Israel's benefit.

While Israel succeeded in pressuring Arafat not to announce his intention to declare a state, it is actually the Palestinians who continue to score important points at the world body's East River headquarters.

In 1947, the Arab world rejected UN Resolution 181 which called for the partition of the British Mandate between the Jews and Arabs. Fifty years later, the Palestinians are harking back to the resolution and demanding their right to declare independence.

Arafat actually has enough support in the General Assembly (GA) - between the 20 Arab League members, the 55 members of the Islamic Conference and the 112 non-aligned nations - to approve the declaration of a state. But the Security Council needs to approve the request before it is even brought to the GA, and the US - a permanent member of the council - is sure to veto it.

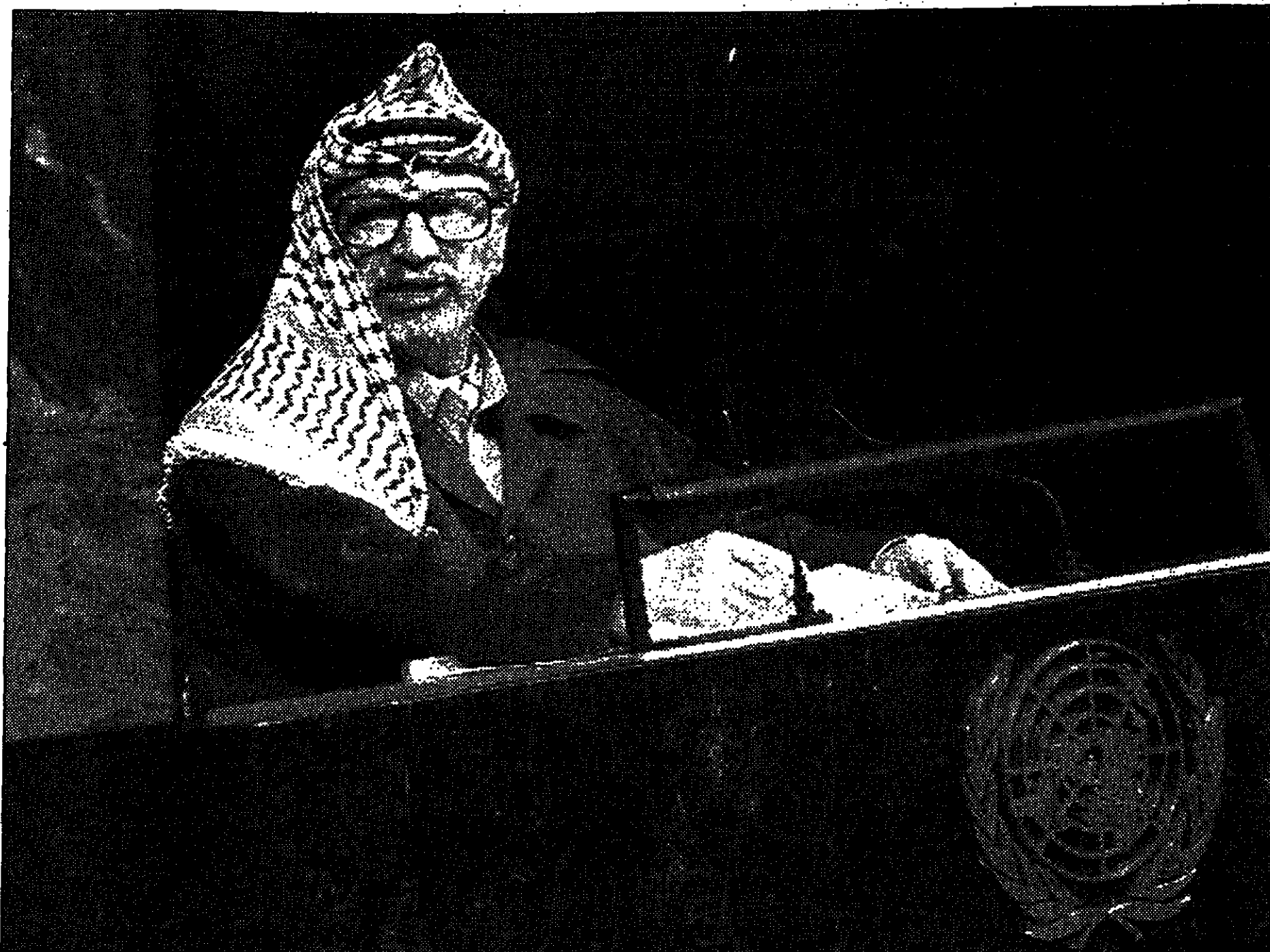
Knowing, therefore, that dramatic declarations will lead nowhere, the Palestinians have adopted a different strategy. They spend their energies trying to effect small, often technical, changes in UN resolutions and protocol, which incrementally raise their status at the UN, and set the stage for their ultimate acceptance as a member state.

FOR example, while public efforts were all directed towards pressuring Arafat not to declare statehood, the behind-the-scenes moves were focused on such things as whether Arafat would be allowed to sit on the UN podium chair.

The plush chair, which is tucked away and guarded throughout the year, is brought out annually for the opening session of the GA and placed on the plenary stage. It serves as the resting place for heads of state in the moments before they rise to deliver their UN addresses.

Only heads of state can sit in this chair, and thus, goes the UN reasoning, if you sit in the chair you are a head of state.

In 1974, soon after the PLO achieved observer status, Arafat, packing a gun and holding out an olive branch, first appeared before the UN as the representative of the PLO observer mission. With no clear "chair policy" yet conceived, a makeshift arrangement was made, whereby the chair was left



Yasser Arafat addressing the 52nd session of the United Nations General Assembly Monday: While Israel succeeded in pressuring him not to announce his intention to declare a state, it is actually the Palestinians who continue to score important points at the world body's East River headquarters. (AP)

after the previous state leader's speech, but the president of the assembly at the UN stood between Arafat and the chair, physically preventing an international diplomatic crisis.

The chair dilemma is only one of many protocol problems that the Israeli mission has to contend with. What about the traditional little fete thrown for state leaders after they deliver their addresses - should Arafat be allowed such a reception? Or should he just be told to walk away after his presentation? And even more importantly, with what title should Arafat be introduced?

In the week before Arafat's address on Monday, Israeli Ambassador Dore Gold and members of his staff held several meetings with the president of the GA to insist that Arafat was "chairman of the executive committee of the PLO," and no more.

Palestinian observer mission head Nasser Kidwa, meanwhile, was holding meetings to explain that Arafat was the "president of

the Palestinian Authority" and if the protocol department had any problem with that, they would be faced with a challenge in the form of a Palestinian-sponsored new initiative on the matter.

MEANWHILE, the unprecedented permission given to the Palestinian observers to raise points of order, reply to member states and co-sponsor resolutions is another sure

sign of their growing power at the UN.

The first of these "technical" changes came about in 1988, when the GA approved changing the name of the Palestinian observer mission from the "PLO mission" to the "Palestinian mission."

Then, on July 7 this year, the GA

privileges.

Among these are the right to cosponsor resolutions on Middle East issues, the right to put themselves on the roster to talk about non-Middle East issues, the right to raise points of order, and the right to occupy six chairs - just like a member state. Other observer missions have only two chairs.

Now, the Palestinians are pres-

own credentials to be expanded.

IN the UN's make-believe world, where compromise rules, one can afford to give everyone a little of what they want.

So Arafat was introduced as both "the chairman of the executive committee of the PLO" and "the elected president of the Palestinian Authority." The chair was set out but Arafat did not sit. A small, unofficial reception was held for him, and it was in a side room.

And the Palestinians have been awarded rights similar to those of members, but not quite.

In real life, of course, it is harder to please everyone. But, while determining the direction in which things will go, the Palestinians continue to pave the way for mobilizing world support for their state.

So that if and when the Palestinian state is declared, the Palestinian representatives will have the six seats from which they can write resolutions, and Arafat's chair will be waiting.

Arafat has enough support in the General Assembly to approve the declaration of a state. But the Security Council needs to approve the request first, and the US - a permanent member of the council - is sure to veto it

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The first of these "technical" changes came about in 1988, when the GA approved changing the name of the Palestinian observer mission from the "PLO mission"

voted to upgrade the status of the Palestinian mission. While still not considered a member state, and while they cannot vote or put forward candidates for UN positions, the Palestinians were given several important additional rights and

suring for further changes. In this year's position paper, for example, they argue that Israel should have its credentials restricted, and not be allowed to represent the areas captured in 1967. At the same time, the Palestinians are asking for their

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A smoldering volcano ready to erupt

This week's riots in Umm el-Fahm were a sharp warning to the government of Israeli Arab frustration and discontent. **David Rudge reports**



An Israeli border policeman about to hit an Arab resident of Umm el-Fahm on Monday, during the second day of clashes. (Photos: AP)

The warning has been sounded and the government would do well to take notice. The bitter and bloody riots in the Umm el-Fahm area this week were not just the result of a land dispute in the Wadi Ara region. They were triggered by a much deeper discontent that must be tackled to avoid more widespread violence, according to at least one expert.

Umm el-Fahm area was essentially an outburst of anger, frustration and deep dissatisfaction with the state of affairs in the Arab sector and what the Arabs regard as government neglect of their affairs," said Dr. Elie Rekhess, head of Tel Aviv University's Program on Arab Politics in Israel.

The riots on Sunday erupted after police moved in to remove a protest tent set up three weeks ear-

lier on the disputed land and evict the demonstrators.

The eviction was relatively peaceful, but the aftermath was far from quiet. More than 100 people, including over 20 police and border policemen, were injured in pitched battles between stone-throwing youth and riot-control security forces firing tear-gas, rubber bullets and a water cannon.

According to Rekhess, Sunday's

violence reflects a period of change among Israeli Arabs, what he describes as a national awakening.

"This trend, which has been particularly noticeable since the start of the peace process, is characterized by focusing on national issues which pertain to the Arab community inside the Green Line," said Rekhess.

"The national interest of the Arabs is being directed inwards, unlike in past years, when greater emphasis was put on external issues such as campaigning for the recognition of the PLO, Israeli withdrawal from the territories and the right of Palestinians to self-determination."

"Since the early 1990s, the Arabs have been reconsidering their status in Israel as a national minority with collective national rights. In this context, issues that relate to land acquire special significance."

A general feeling of discontent over rising unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, health-care standards and the education system also contributed to the outburst of violence, Rekhess said.

The disputed land, primarily covered by olive groves, lies a few kilometers away from Umm el-Fahm and belongs primarily to the residents of nearby Muawiya village.

The Defense Ministry announced in May that the land was going to be annexed to an existing IDF firing zone and closed military area.

Local farmers, backed by residents of Umm el-Fahm, the Islamic Movement and the Israeli Arab leadership's so-called monitoring committee - composed of Arab MKs, council heads and public figures - protested the plan as expropriation of Arab-owned land.

A demonstration was staged outside the Defense Ministry offices in Tel Aviv and a protest tent, manned around the clock, was erected on the disputed land just off the Nahal Iron highway.

Warning that the atmosphere was ripe for a major land demonstration, the Arab leadership demanded that the decision to confiscate the land be rescinded. Calls were made for an urgent meeting with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to try and defuse the potentially explosive situation.

Recalling the first Land Day protests in March 1976 - when six Israeli Arabs were killed and scores of people, including members of security forces, were injured - the Arabs told the government to pay attention to the writing on the wall.

Defense Ministry officials said that everything was being done to compensate the Arab landowners and placate the increasingly vocifer-



Israeli border policemen charge in the direction of stone throwers in Umm el-Fahm.

ous opposition to the annexation.

Eli Cohen, adviser to the defense minister on settlement, infrastructure and development, said that the move was in no way an attempt to confiscate Arab-owned land. He stressed that some 2,500 dunams of land from the existing military zone had been returned to Arab landowners and that only 520 dunams were now being taken.

Motti Zaken, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, noted in an interview with Israel Radio that every effort had been made to enable farmers to enter the area, tend their olive trees and cultivate their crops. Farmers were given special permits to enter the area on certain days, he said.

Zaken categorically denied claims made by Sheikh Raed Salah - head of the political wing of the Islamic Movement and mayor of Umm el-Fahm - that the military takeover of the land was a "cover-up" for a large-scale expropriation of Arab-owned land for a new Jewish city in the area.

THE upcoming municipal elections also played a part in triggering this week's violence, especially in regard to Salah, according to some politicians and security sources. Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Katsav, who also holds the Arab affairs portfolio, accused extremist elements of trying to make political capital out of the Wadi Ara land issue.

Katsav was apparently referring to Salah, whose wing of the Islamic Movement is considered

the more radical branch.

Northern region police commander Alek Ron also maintained that Israeli Arab leaders and politicians had jumped onto the bandwagon for reasons that were more connected to the elections than the land issue itself.

Rekhess, however, said that highlighting the upcoming elections as one of the main reasons for the eruption of violence was "oversimplifying the situation."

The land issue was also related to building problems and the population boom, Rekhess said. Land, he stressed, was at a premium for the construction of homes, and not just for farming.

"There are severe housing problems in the Arab sector. For example, only a handful of Arab settlements have been established since 1948 and these were mainly for Beduin in the Negev and Galilee," said Rekhess.

"The Arab population, however, has grown tenfold since then, from around 100,000 to over one million. Arab towns and villages have expanded to cope with the increased population, but this has been done with limited territory at their disposal and these means remain severely restricted."

REKHESS, who is also a senior consultant to the Abraham Fund which promotes Jewish-Arab coexistence, expressed grave concern over what he described as the "body blow" that the events in the Wadi Ara area dealt to the sensitive fabric of Jewish-

Arab relations in Israel.

"The violent confrontation could perhaps have been avoided if the principle of being wise rather than just being right had been applied here. There is the feeling that the negotiating process was not exhausted before the dam burst," he said.

"The saddest aspect of all is that whatever compromise is reached at the end of the day could have been achieved beforehand, which turns this sad episode of conflict into an unnecessary exercise in futility."

It is the future of Jewish-Arab relations, however, that Rekhess is particularly worried about in the wake of the Wadi Ara battles.

"The Israeli Arab leadership appears to have adopted a more resolute stance, which is expressed in a greater willingness to fight what it sees as the government's discriminatory policies toward the Arab community in general, and this could have ramifications for the future."

"On the one hand, Israel might be working toward a resolution of the conflict with the Palestinians. On the other hand, it should be clearly noted that the real challenge in the coming years lies within the Green Line."

"The situation could very easily deteriorate to the point where it gets out of hand - unless the Israeli Arab leadership and the authorities begin a comprehensive, systematic dialogue on how to remedy problems and strengthen Jewish-Arab relations in Israel, instead of eroding them," Rekhess added.

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Fighting for the sand and surf

Environmentalists are making tracks in their battle against developers who seek to take over Israel's beaches. Larry Derfner reports

There's good news for beach lovers: The battle to stop developers and coastal city governments from turning Israel's seashore into one long "real-estate marina" is going great guns.

Two weeks ago, a team of planners and engineers appointed by the Interior Ministry, recommended freezing marina construction in Israel for the next five years. The panel, headed by former Tel Aviv city engineer Shammai Assif, called for an end to the practice of allowing marinas to be built as Trojan horses for grand real-estate projects on the shore.

"Real-estate marinas like those in Ashdod and Herzliya take away the public's right to access to the beach," said civil engineer Alon Perlman, a member of the panel. "The beaches belong to the public, and they have to be preserved."

The report comes on the heels of a string of court victories by the Israel Union for Environmental Defense, which has successfully challenged the plans for real-estate marinas in Tel Aviv and Haifa, as well as the expansion of the Herzliya marina.

Citizens' groups and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel have given the Haifa Municipality terrible headaches over a planned high-rise marina in the Bat Galim area.

"They want to close off the beach with a wall of 20-story apartment buildings," said Vered Friedman, head of SPNI in Haifa. "We've been far more successful than we ever expected to be," added Haim Raz, a Bat Galim resident and leader of the protests.

REAL-estate marinas are on the drawing board in Haifa, Tel Aviv (near the Reading power station), Netanya, Nahariya and Bat Yam. The existing ones in Ashkelon, Ashdod and Herzliya were built in the late '80s and early '90s. There are older, more modest marinas with just a few facilities and restaurants at Gordon Beach in Tel Aviv, the Kishon River in Haifa Bay, and Acre.

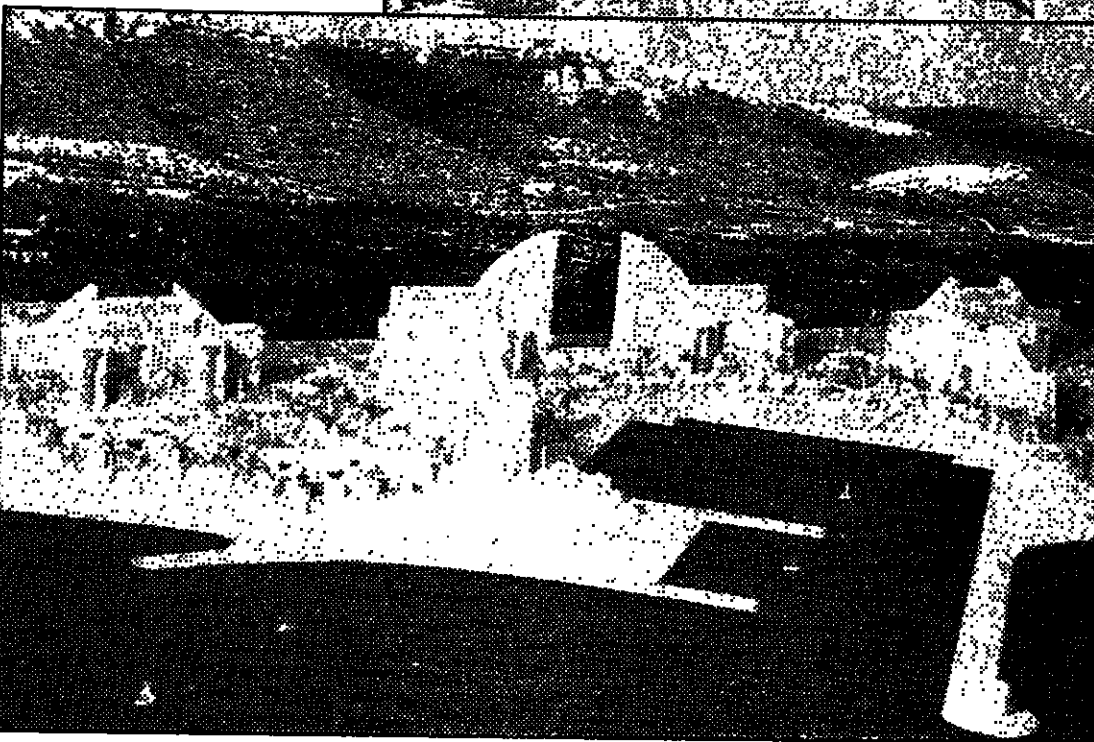
With about half of Israel's 180-kilometer coast already given over to power plants, harbors and naval bases, the real-estate marinas that developers, mayors and city council members are dreaming of could make nearly all of Israel's beaches off-limits to the public, said Danny Fisch, director of IUED.

The most ambitious plan of all, the Bat Galim project, has been sent back to the National Planning and Building Council, Israel's highest planning authority,

following an IUED challenge in Haifa District Court. Bracha Brill, spokeswoman for Haifa Municipality, wouldn't even hazard a guess as to when the project might be completed.

But Brill maintained that the protests were ill-conceived. The marina's residential, sports and commercial facilities would be built not on the beach, but offshore, on 450 dunams of reclaimed land. "It would create a new, curved shoreline that would actually be nearly 1 km longer than the current, straight one," said Brill. "The marina doesn't take anything away from anyone, it only adds."

"There will be more coastline,



more jobs for Haifa residents, more housing, and Haifa will once again be a city for tourists," she said. No longer will the common criticism of Haifa—that it is cut off from the beach, that it wastes its greatest resource—be warranted, Brill insisted.

Yet David Yanai, a Haifa architect chosen in the late '70s by the municipality and the Israel Lands Administration to design a local marina, said the current plan "destroys the beach" by turning it into a landfill on which high-rises would stand. Yanai said his own design, drawn up with the Israel Institute for Oceanographic and Limnological Research, leaves the beach untouched, and places the buildings on platforms out in the water. Two of Yanai's colleagues from the Technion's Faculty of Architecture were on the project's steering committee.

Danny Fisch, director of IUED, contended that every real-estate marina built in the last

decade has privatized sections of the beach—for developers who profit from the high-rise projects, and for the wealthy residents who purchase the apartments.

"The beaches cannot be traversed where the real-estate marinas go up," Fisch said. The view of the sea is obscured by the high-rises. Sandstone bluffs that line the beach are usually destroyed to make way for apartment buildings.

The report commissioned by the Interior Ministry said that the marinas, especially the one in Ashdod, even thin out the beaches by obstructing the natural shifting of sand from Egypt to Israel.

THIS was not the intent of the master plan for coastal development which passed in 1983, Fisch said. That plan banned construction within 100 meters of the water—unless there was a strong case for a variance. And if a variance were to be granted and con-

struction permitted within 100 meters, the plan limited projects to those that served the public, like sports and tourism facilities—not private apartment buildings.

But developers, aided by friendly coastal city governments, got around these limitations by using marinas—whose boat berths, obviously, must be built not only within 100 meters of the water, but in the water—as a wedge to win variances and building permits on the coast, Fisch said.

The apartment buildings they put up on what used to be public beaches are officially called "apartment hotels" to meet the criterion for "tourist facilities," but this is a dodge, Fisch continued.

"What you usually find is that the building has a hotel-style cleaning service, and it might stand next to an actual hotel, and a hotel company might be listed as the owner, and the apartments

Environmentalists won a Haifa District Court case against plans to construct five more high-rise apartment buildings (inset: model) in addition to the one already built at Carmel Beach (above).

may be listed as being for rent. But in fact all the apartments are sold to private owners," he said.

Government officials with any regard for the environment "knew this was ruining the beaches," Fisch said, but they were overpowered at the local and national level by developers and their legislative patrons.

Aviv marina near the Reading power station and the expansion of the Herzliya Marina are headed for the Supreme Court. The five additional high-rises planned for Carmel Beach may still be built.

"Real-estate marinas like those in Ashdod and Herzliya take away the public's right to access to the beach. The beaches belong to the public, and they have to be preserved"

— Civil engineer Alon Perlman

only not as close to the water and not as massive as originally designed. The Haifa Municipality still intends to build a marina next to Bat Galim, but, since the court decision, the plans are under close

er review by the National Planning and Building Council.

In Fisch's view, the policy paper initiated by the Interior Ministry is "a red flag for developers. The ministry took the essence of the court decisions and adapted them to the coastal development master plan." He added that later this month, the IUED intends to push forward Knesset legislation to further safeguard the public's interest on the beaches.

PERLMAN, one of three experts who drew up the Interior Ministry plan, said one of the challenges now for planning decision-makers "is to better define marinas, and decide where they should and shouldn't be built. It may be that some marinas will be built in the future, but they likely will be smaller than the real-estate marinas built in the recent past," he said.

Raz, the Bat Galim activist, is heartened by the progress made, but said, "We are up against very powerful, very wealthy interests. They have tremendous stamina and determination. I'm very worried that one day, without our even knowing it, the marina will be going up. That's why we have to keep our eyes open all the time."

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Another attempt to bridge the great divide

Religious-secular dialogue has become a virtual cottage industry, but the gaps remain as wide as ever. This week, an array of leaders from all the camps tried yet again to outline a *modus vivendi*. Herb Keinon reports

Some 100 thinkers from the country's secular, haredi and national-religious camps met at Ma'aleh Hahamisha on Sunday and Monday and set into motion a process they hope will culminate in a new set of rules governing secular-religious relations.

If things go really well, a "Ma'aleh Hahamisha process" may — five years down the road — become an integral part of the political lexicon.

Just as the Oslo process came to signal rapprochement with the Palestinians, so too the Ma'aleh Hahamisha process may become synonymous with a process of rapprochement between the haredi, national-religious, and secular camps.

Of course, it also may not. If things go less well — cynics would say if they go as expected — the conference at Ma'aleh Hahamisha will not be remembered in five weeks, let alone five years, by anyone at all. It will rather go down as just another in a seemingly endless series of dialogues among Israeli Jews that have sprung up over the last few years, as the Wars of the Jews have gotten worse.

Gesher, Drachim, Tzav Pius, Uri Kevodi, and B'sod Siah are just a few of the organizations that have emerged to further dialogue. For it is this dialogue, this civil discussion between well-meaning individuals, that has been widely perceived as a cure for the religious-secular divide.

But reality is far more complex. "It is easy to talk about the need to talk," said Zali Gurevitch, a poet and Hebrew University sociologist who attended the Ma'aleh Hahamisha conference as a secular representative. "What is more difficult is actually being able to talk about anything."

The problem, Gurevitch said, is one of mutual recognition. What he means is that the religious do not recognize the secular camp on its own terms, as a legitimate group with legitimate values. Rather, they relate to it as a group of people who are "not yet religious."

"They say that as liberal pluralists, we [the secular camp] must accept them," Gurevitch said. "They also say that as liberal pluralists, we must accept that they are unable to accept us. That's tough to do. With this type of reasoning, you can go just so far, but no further."

PARADOXICALLY, as the number of people involved in these dialogues increases, so has the religious-secular divide.

A recent survey shows that some 62% of the population views the religious-secular conflict as the country's most pressing problem, even more pressing than the conflict with the Palestinians.

"The problem in this society," said Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan, director of the Rabbinical Courts, "is that everybody wants to see immediate results."

"I call this the Peace Now syndrome. Everybody wants *tachlis* now. But these matters take time. It is a process."

After two days of workshops involving people like Eliezer Schweid, Yaron London, Haim Druckman and Shmuel Jakobovits, the conference ended without joint declarations, working papers, or statements to the nation — but with apparent agreement that the process itself is the message.

Still, there is curiosity where the process will lead.



"What will come of all this?" one of the conference participants asked another, in between workshops.

"Aha," came the non-answer, "that's the big question."

Some eventually hope to see a social contract drawn up that will define relations between Jews; others want to see a new status quo legislated, while others want to see an end to all religious legislation.

There was talk of establishing a supreme committee, made up of influential religious and secular thinkers, that would arbitrate religious-secular conflicts as they arise. There was also discussion of turning this committee into a filter

through which all religious legislation would pass before being brought to the Knesset.

But most of all there was talk of the process, a long, slow process that, on the way to developing a mechanism for governing relations between Jews, would help destroy stereotypes, reduce the stridency of public statements, and get each side to empathize with the other.

"In one of the workshops," said Ben-Dahan, "one of the kibbutzniks said that he wants to reach a situation where if something pains the haredi community, he will feel the pain as well."

That type of transformation,

obviously, does not take place after one two-day conference.

BUT one two-day conference is a good place to start, said Jakobovits, head of Uri Kevodi, a haredi think-tank which has been active for several years in discussions with the secular camp. He said that the Ma'aleh Hahamisha conference raised the level of the discussions between the camps a notch.

"Until now there have been small groups here and there. This is a large group, with a good number of haredi and religious participants, initiated by the education minister. It makes the discussion more real, and connected to the

political level that can carry out decisions."

For instance, if it is eventually decided that what is needed is a moratorium on religious legislation, the involvement of Education Minister Yitzhak Levy in the process could have significance. Among the other MKs attending were the NRP's Hanan Porat, Meretz's Dedi Zucker, Shinui's Abraham Poraz, and The Third Way's Alex Lubotzky.

Jakobovits, who does not represent a political party, said he sees his role as helping formulate ideas that can then be brought to the haredi spiritual leaders, who would have to give their okay for

any new arrangement to come into effect.

After two days of meetings, the view that emerged was that neither the haredi, national-religious nor secular camp will be able to actualize its dream of life in Zion, but that practical day-to-day solutions are possible.

In searching for such solutions, Jakobovits said the secular camp may find it easier to deal with the haredim than with the national-religious camp.

In a unique twist on the old National Religious Party perception of itself as a "bridge" between the secular and the religious, Jakobovits said the haredim may

serve as a "bridge" between the secular and the national-religious.

Indeed, one of the speakers at the conference, Tel Aviv University sociologist Ephraim Yuchtman-Ya'ar, head of Tel Aviv University's Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research, said, "On a personal level, I am concerned about religious extremism, and the strengthening of the religious camp, especially the national-religious camp. I am not willing to live in a state where halacha is the constitution."

Yuchtman-Ya'ar, who conducted the above-mentioned survey showing the extent of the religious-secular divide, painted an extremely bleak picture of the situation, saying that — as someone who claims to have his ear to the ground — civil war over this issue is not unthinkable.

IT makes sense, Jakobovits said, that in his concern about becoming a halachic state, Yuchtman-Ya'ar is more worried about the desires of the national-religious, than those of the haredim.

"The haredi approach is basically a very pragmatic approach," Jakobovits said.

He explained that the haredim do not view the current era as the messianic one, or the era of redemption, as do many within the national-religious camp.

As such, "we don't expect our utopia to be realized, and will only insist on what can be achieved, nothing more. It is not difficult for the haredim to say we don't want to impose halacha on the state, because we realize that we are still in exile."

"But for the national-religious, who see this as the messianic era, the non-halachic nature of the state is more of a problem."

Jakobovits said further that there is a growing realization in the haredi world, at least among the leadership, that religious legislation has become self-defeating.

"The basic reason why religious legislation was always important in our eyes was as a way of protecting the Jewish identity of the population," he said.

"As long as people knew that the country was committed to certain distinctly Jewish values, such as Shabbat in public, and marriage and divorce under religious law, it retained a certain measure of being a Jewish state."

But, Jakobovits said, one of the haredim made a comment at the conference that sums up the problem with religious legislation.

"Through the battles for public Shabbat observance, we may have won [i.e., closed down] the street, but lost the people. If it were clear to us that by not fighting those battles we might be winning the people, we might consider it."

Although to some ears this may sound like a major change in the haredi political position, to some of the secular representatives at the conference it is evidence of the religious community's perception of itself as a community full of values that need to be transmitted to secular Jews, who are themselves devoid of values.

This perception weakens those who would like to think that there is some magical formula out there that can bring about a global understanding between the camps.

Instead, the best that may be hoped for is a mechanism to deal with day-to-day flare-ups. That in itself, most at the Ma'aleh Hahamisha conference would agree, would be quite an accomplishment.

London prepares to sell its Jewish treasures

Britain's cash-strapped synagogues are seeking to line their pockets through the sale of ancient Judaica. Douglas Davis talks to one man fighting to protect the books

A retired London rabbi and bibliophile is fighting to stop Britain's mainstream Orthodox establishment from putting its priceless collection of ancient Judaica under the auctioneer's hammer.

The library, conservatively valued at \$3 million, includes Jewish books and manuscripts dating back to the early 15th century. It is owned by the cash-strapped United Synagogue, to which 66 synagogues are affiliated, and is under the care of the London Beit Din.

The decision to sell the library

was taken earlier this month because, according to United Synagogue president Elkan Levy, the books are not being used and his organization lacks the resources to care for, or display, the work.

Indeed, he says, "their benefit to the organization as a whole is almost nonexistent and their continued retention in high-security deposit is an ongoing cost." According to Orthodox officials, proceeds from the sale would be applied to "certain vital projects," including the organization's pension fund.

But Harry Rabinowicz, himself a retired United Synagogue rabbi, is scornful of the explanation and dismisses Levy's rationale as "just an excuse."

The decision, he told *The Jerusalem Post*, is "a scandal... an act of vandalism." Moreover, he notes, the United Synagogue has sold off many of its buildings, and not a penny has gone to the pensioners.

"They are selling off the family silver," he laments. "Anglo-Jewry is being deprived of its literary heritage. It is unprecedented for a public institution to sell its library."

Rabinowicz suggests that instead of breaking up the library and selling off its parts, a national Jewish library should be established in London — as in Rome and Paris — to house the collection. And if funds cannot be found to maintain such a library in Britain, the books should be given to a public institution in Israel.

"I am sure members of the community could find the funds to keep these books here," he says,

"but it seems they are interested only in checkbooks."

JACK Lunzer, custodian of the Valmadonna Trust Library in London, one of the largest private collections of ancient Judaica, believes that the price tag attached to creating a national Jewish library in Britain is prohibitive and that such a project is unrealistic.

Not only would the cost of setting up such a library far exceed the value of the contents, he says, but it is unlikely that additional funds could be raised for librarianship and maintenance.

He suggests instead that the books in the collection be sold, while the manuscripts are loaned to a leading archival institution. The proceeds of the sale, he says, could be used to provide a grant to an established British institution — the Bodleian Library in Oxford or the British Library in London — which, says Lunzer, "have maintained our heritage infinitely better than the Jewish community has done, or could do."

Rabinowicz disagrees. European

Jewish communities and their treasures have been ravaged over the past 50 years, he says, and this is not the time to take an axe to the collection, a heritage which he believes the affluent, safe Jewish community of Britain can comfortably afford to protect and cherish.

"In 1939," he notes, "there were 469 Jewish libraries with a total of more than three million books in 20 European countries. In Poland alone, there were 251 Jewish libraries, 75 percent of which were destroyed during World War II."

Like the Jews of those countries, he says, the books were "scattered and destroyed."

The United Synagogue collection was acquired in 1842 with a bequest of £300 from Rabbi Solomon Hirschell, a renowned book collector who was appointed Britain's first chief rabbi in 1802 (at an annual salary of £250).

Today, the collection consists of 4,000 books, 148 manuscripts and 11 incunabula — books that were printed before 1500, of which fewer than 200 copies survive in public and private libraries

throughout the world. In addition, there are items of silver worth some \$120,000.

AMONG the incunabula treasures is the work of Rabbi Solomon Ibn Aderet (1235-1310), known as the Rashba, whose halachic responsa, published in Rome by Soncino between 1469 and 1472, were regarded as highly authoritative through the ages.

Another contains *Mivhar Hapeninin* ("Chosen Pearls"), by the philosopher/poet Solomon Ibn Gabirol (1021-1056), which was published by Joshua Soncino in 1484.

Other treasures contain biblical and talmudic commentaries, as well as works on liturgy, ethics, theology, philosophy, Kabbala, mathematics, astronomy and medicine.

Prized items in the collection are:

- The *Sefer Mahbarot*, by philosopher/moralist Immanuel ben Solomon of Rome — the "Jewish Plato" — which was the first book printed by Solomon Soncino at Brescia in 1491.

- The *Sefer Agur*, by Rabbi Jacob Landau, the first book ever printed (in 1490) that contains rabbinic approbations. It was also the last book in Hebrew to be printed in Naples.

- The *Levish Malkhut*, by talmudist and Kabbalist Rabbi Mordechai ben Abraham Jaffe, which were printed in Lublin,

Prague and Cracow between 1590 and 1604.

The library also contains works by Jacob Levi ben Moses Moellin, known as the Maharil, which were printed in Sabionetta in 1556, and the 270-page diary of Rabbi Hayyim Samuel Jacob Falk (1708-1782), known as the "Baal Shem Tov of London" and regarded as a miracle-worker.

The Falk diary consists of 270 pages containing a medley of notes, names of angels, a list of pledges, accounts of charitable donations — and recipes for cakes.

In addition, there are works by rabbinical commentator, talmudist and codifier Rabbi Moshe Alshech (1507-1600), which were printed in Hebrew in Constantinople in 1593, and the work of 14th-century Spanish talmudist and scholar David ben Joseph Abdurrahman, which was published in Lisbon in 1489, just three years before the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

BUT the jewel of the collection is the first Jewish book to be printed in Prague — an Ashkenazi prayer book from 1505 that contains the entire order of service and "piyutim," on 196 leaves of vellum. The only other copy in existence is kept at Oxford's Bodleian Library.

The decision to sell the collection has been formally taken, but Harry Rabinowicz refuses to accept defeat. He is adamant that his long, lonely — and seemingly futile — struggle will go on.



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סוכה מן האשכול

Ra'anana's magnet for the ambitious



Rina Bar-Tal has drawn most publicity – and most fire – on account of her fight against the 'haredization' of Ra'anana.

An afternoon stroll through Ra'anana's tidy streets and well-tended parks might be enough to discourage anyone from challenging popular incumbent mayor Ze'ev Bielski.

In the decade he has been in office, the ubiquitous Bielski has transformed the town from a sleepy Sharon backwater to a dynamic nesting ground for yuppies, high-tech companies and English-speaking immigrants. With Bielski at its helm, the city has won national awards for quality of life; it has kept a balanced budget and set up a state-of-the-art computer system (with a much-publicized direct e-mail line to the mayor).

Perhaps it is precisely because Ra'anana is such an attractive place for ambitious people that candidates have emerged to pose an aggressive challenge to Bielski's hold on City Hall. Yossi Olmert, a Likud activist and top government spokesman under Yitzhak Shamir as the head of the Government Press Office, is one such candidate. Rina Bar-Tal, who has served as Bielski's deputy mayor for the past 10 years, is another.

OLMERT arrived in Ra'anana at the same time as Bielski, 16 years ago. He has been labeled by some as an ivory-tower resident, incapable of navigating the muddy trenches of politics. Olmert simply points the way to his victory over Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau for the regional spot on the Likud Knesset list in the last party primaries.

Still, the past few years have been disappointing for Olmert. He was bumped out of a chair in the plenum after the Likud united with David Levy's Geshet list.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dangled the job of UN ambassador in front of him, only to withdraw it.

Although he is strongly identified with the Likud, Olmert is running on an independent list called

Ra'anana 2000, incorporating members of Labor as well as Likudniks. Some of the sharpest criticism directed at Olmert is that he has set his sights on the mayoral chair because he has little better to do – a criticism he sharply rejects.

"I don't think anyone who goes into political life should look down on local politics," he says. "We must pay attention to local issues if we want to build a modern society."

In his campaign, Olmert has taken aim at what is both Bielski's greatest strength and his Achilles heel: his association with Deputy Mayor Uzi Cohen.

Cohen is an enthusiastic pro-Netanyahu activist and an extremely powerful local political broker. However, he is reviled in many circles for what is considered bullying behavior and disparaging remarks about Arabs.

"What we have here is Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Behind the smiling face of Bielski is the much less attractive face of Uzi Cohen," says Olmert.

Olmert says Bielski's decision to run this year as an independent after 10 years under the Likud banner is based largely on a desire to distance himself from Cohen and his heavy-handed tactics.

Cohen himself is heading the Likud list for city council this year, with a public understanding that he will join Bielski in a coalition.

Olmert charges Cohen is responsible for Ra'anana becoming "a center of political hooliganism." He contends that Cohen is "personally responsible" for the destruction of his campaign posters and other materials, and that Likud activists attending rallies for Olmert were surreptitiously photographed and afterwards threatened.

Cohen was charged with similar misdeeds against opponents of Netanyahu at a Likud convention several years ago.

Olmert is warning Ra'anana vot-

What kind of people would go out and challenge a popular mayor who's been sitting pretty on his municipal throne for a decade? Allison Kaplan Sommer talks to Likud activist Yossi Olmert and former deputy mayor Rina Bar-Tal



In the decade incumbent mayor Ze'ev Bielski has been in office, the city has won national awards for quality of life, has kept a balanced budget and set up a state-of-the-art computer system. (Michal Rotem)

ers that a mandate for Bielski is essentially a vote for Cohen. He maintains that Bielski has promised Cohen that he will step down in 2000 to run for the Knesset, allowing Cohen to become mayor.

"Rubbish, nonsense," is Bielski's response to this charge. "No mayor in Israel can decide who his successor will be. We are not the kings of Egypt, and my opponent knows that it's not true."

Discussing Cohen, Bielski's chatter slows down, and it is clear that he is choosing his words carefully.

"Uzi Cohen was born into a family of 14 children. He didn't have an education like most of us. He is a self-made man. He is in charge of the cleaning and gardening of Ra'anana, and he is doing an efficient job. He should be judged on these achievements."

Regarding Cohen's past behavior within the Likud, Bielski says: "I'm very upset that it happened, and I hope Uzi learned his lesson."

OLMERT'S potshots at the mayor don't stop with criticism of Cohen, however. He has no problem taking aim at Ra'anana's reputation for a high quality of life. Olmert believes that Ra'anana will soon become overdeveloped.

"I was strongly opposed to the uncontrolled unfreezing of land, and warned that there would be terrible traffic problems in the city. Today we have such traffic, and 5,000 more apartments are under construction. The city's infrastructure has not dealt with this growth. If something is not done, we will soon become the overcrowded Rishon LeZion of the Sharon region."

Olmert wants to allocate funds away from what he considers vain expenditures – like the municipal basketball team and the mayor's public-relations staff – toward community needs.

"The flowers in town are very beautiful, but I would spend money on addressing human problems. The density of pupils per classroom in Ra'anana is higher than the national average. More money goes to the basketball team than to help Kiryat Sharett, one of our disadvantaged neighborhoods, or to fight drugs in the schools, which is a real problem."

"The existing industrial zone is neglected, and Ra'anana youth, unlike in Herzliya and Kfar Sava,

have nowhere to spend their time; yet Bielski chose to invest NIS 12 million in a new industrial zone."

Bielski is also letting his friends build shopping malls without providing the necessary infrastructure or sufficient roads. It is a megalomania that has to be stopped."

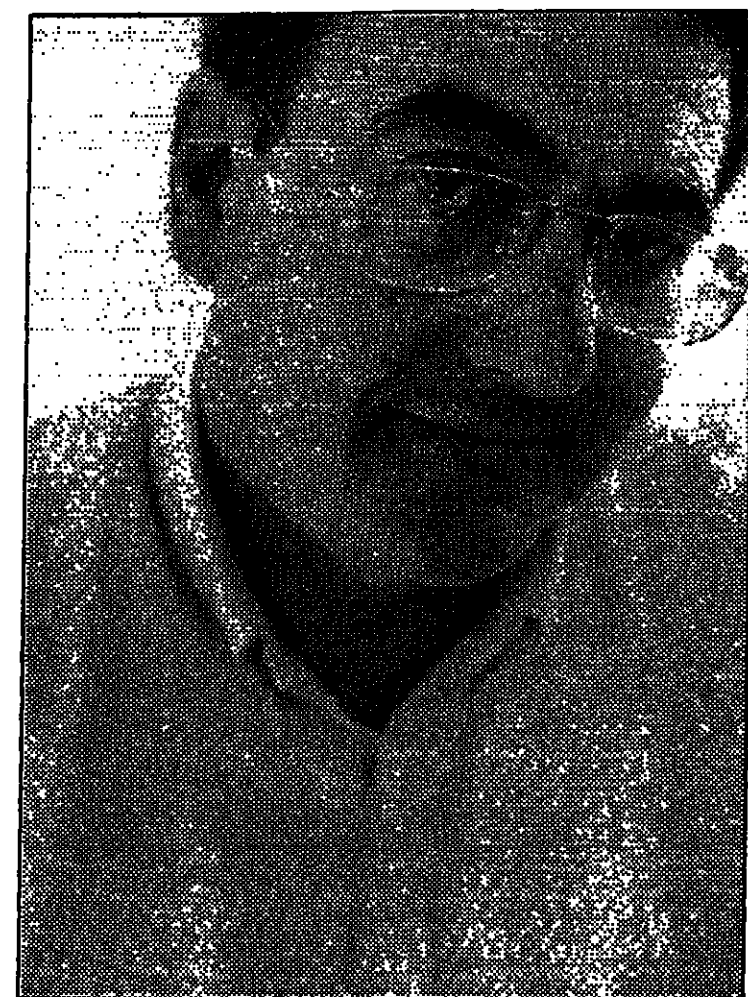
LABOR candidate Bar-Tal's list of gripes against Bielski echoes Olmert's criticisms.

"The quality of life here has not

been addressed – from the standard of the water to a garbage dump which just stands there like a big mountain."

"Ra'anana has grown, attracting several thousands of new people; but we have not coped with it. There is pollution on Rehov Ahuza [the city's main street] from all of the traffic jams – coming in, going out and within the city. These are major issues."

"And we have to look ahead and



Olmert: Some say he wants to be mayor for lack of anything better to do – a claim he rejects. (Jonathan Bloom)

think about what Ra'anana will look like 10 years from now demographically. The city is getting older, we have to work to get younger people to come. Thirteen percent of the city's residents are over the age of 60, and [the percentage] is growing fast."

"Right now, I have three mandates out of 19 on the city council. If I get more power, there are many things I would like to change."

The issue that has won Bar-Tal the most publicity and drawn the most criticism is her active fight against what she perceives as the "haredization" of Ra'anana. Bar-Tal protested the laying of the cornerstone of a Habad center, and posters have appeared around town featuring the mayoral candidate and the slogan, "Only Bar-Tal can stop the haredim."

Bar-Tal maintains that all she wants to do is safeguard the current balance.

"Here in Ra'anana the secular public has good relations with the religious sector, and we want to see our status quo maintained."

But Bielski sees Bar-Tal's campaign strategy as a provocation: "I think it's disgusting, frightening, that for a few percentage points in an election someone is trying to stir up controversy with a slogan like this. For years, we have put a lot of effort into promoting tolerance in our city."

"To incite hate between Jews, to put fuel on a fire that doesn't even exist is very dangerous. I condemn it with all my heart, and I am sure all Ra'anana residents feel the same."

"Not one street is closed on Shabbat and more than 10 movie theaters are open. I don't know why anyone would shout, 'Beware the Ides of March, the haredim are

coming.'"

Bielski also shrugs off his challengers' charges of overdevelopment or excessive spending on sports or beautification. "Ra'anana is the only town in Israel that has a balanced budget," he claims.

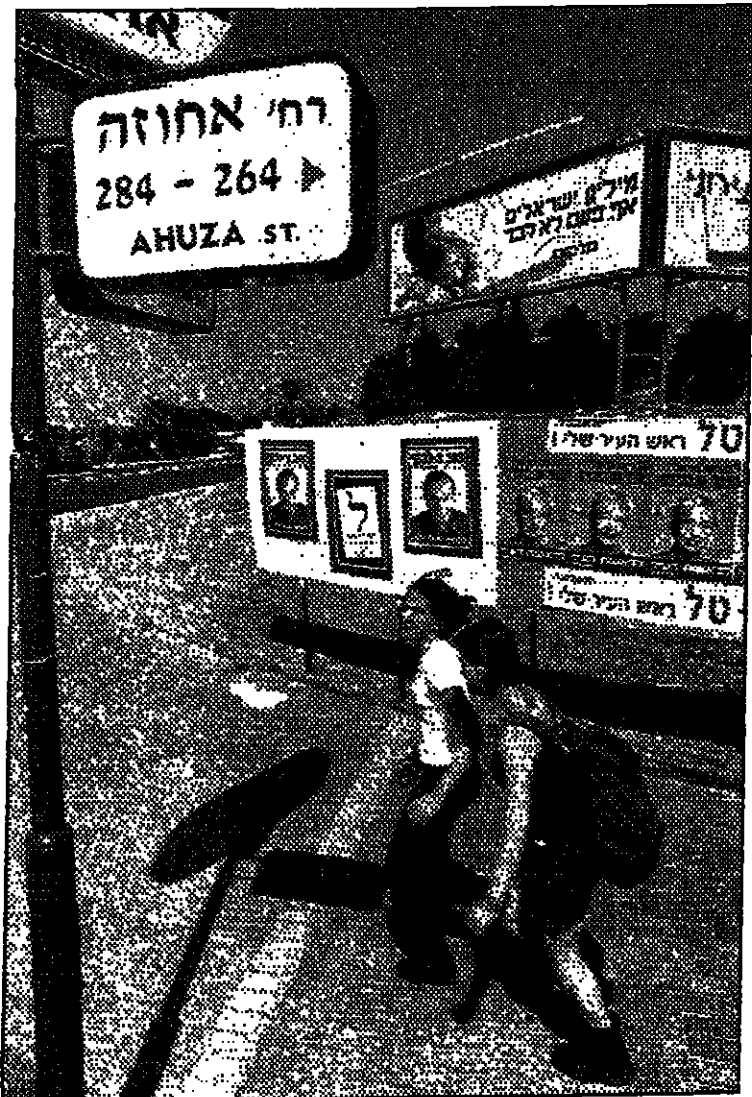
"Ra'anana today is the greenest town in Israel. In recent years we have created a huge park that is the envy of the country, and a sports facility. We are protecting more and more green space, and in terms of numbers of population, we are growing well below the Israeli average."

THE rosy picture Bielski paints is, the perception of the average Ra'anana resident. As a result, this election seems to be less about who is going to be mayor in 1999 and more about jostling for position in the post-Bielski era of the next millennium. It is assumed that, sooner or later, Bielski will take his formidable reputation as a municipal leader and try to translate it into a national role.

However, like any practiced local politician in the midst of a reelection campaign, Bielski claims the thought has not entered his mind.

"For some people, even five years as mayor would be too much. I see the job as a mission. I love the people of Ra'anana; I meet the public every day. It will only end when I've had enough, or get the message that they've had enough of me."

It is remotely possible that the voters in Ra'anana will send Bielski that message this November. But, from the front-runner lilt evident in his voice, it does not appear that Bielski is worried at all.



Pollution on Rehov Ahuza, the city's main street, has become a major issue in Ra'anana's mayoral election. (Jonathan Bloom)

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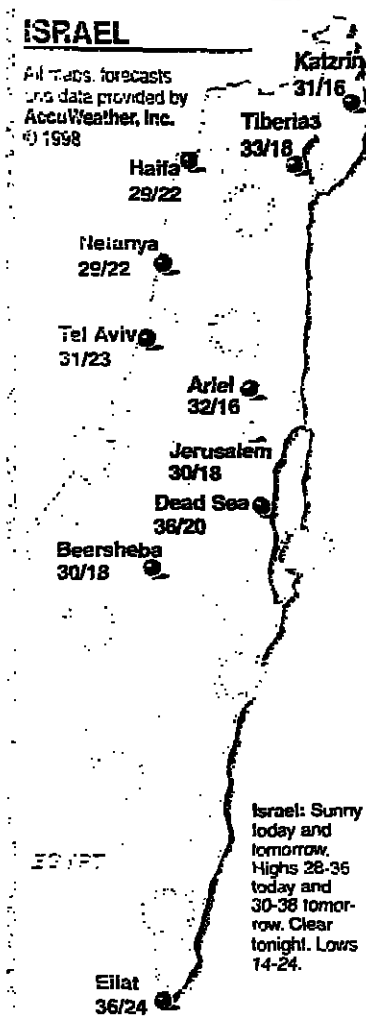
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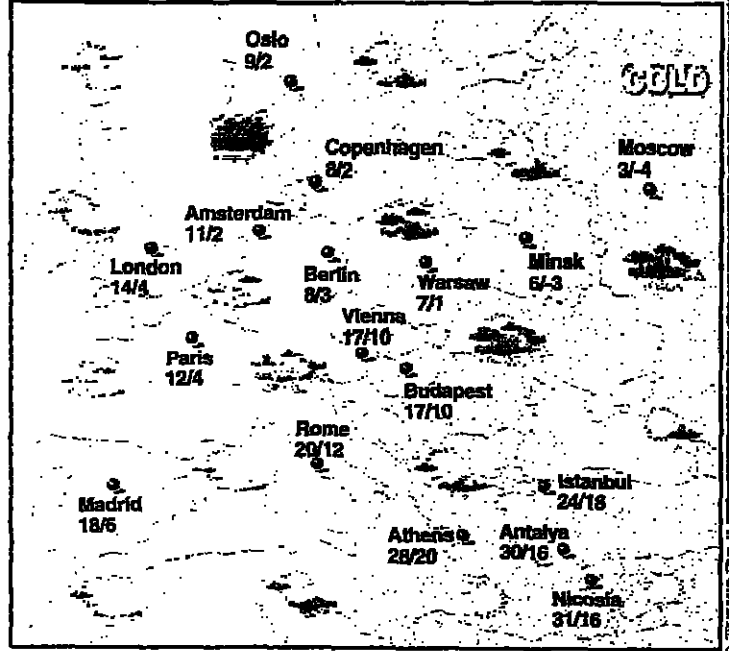
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ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Today	High	Low	Today	High	Low
Ariel	32/16	32/16	18/6	34/53	34/53	22/11	32/16	32/16	18/6
Beersheba	30/18	30/18	18/6	33/51	33/51	19/6	30/18	30/18	18/6
Dead Sea	36/20	36/20	20/6	39/100	39/100	27/11	36/20	36/20	20/6
Eilat	36/24	36/24	24/5	39/100	39/100	27/11	36/24	36/24	24/5
Haifa	29/22	29/22	18/6	31/88	31/88	24/75	29/22	29/22	18/6
Jerusalem	30/18	30/18	18/6	33/51	33/51	19/6	30/18	30/18	18/6
Katzir	31/16	31/16	18/6	34/53	34/53	22/11	31/16	31/16	18/6
Netanya	29/24	29/24	18/6	31/88	31/88	24/75	29/24	29/24	18/6
Tel Aviv	31/23	31/23	18/6	33/51	33/51	19/6	31/23	31/23	18/6
Tiberias	33/18	33/18	18/6	35/95	35/95	21/70	33/18	33/18	18/6

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Today	High	Low	Today	High	Low
Ankara	11/22	11/22	8/6	34/53	34/53	22/11	11/22	11/22	8/6
Beijing	25/77	25/77	22/78	125/30	125/30	27/80	25/77	25/77	22/78
Bombay	34/37	34/37	34/37	104/40	104/40	30/86	34/37	34/37	34/37
Brussels	12/23	12/23	8/43	33/77	33/77	12/23	12/23	12/23	8/43
Chicago	17/82	17/82	15/94	29/79	29/79	21/70	17/82	17/82	15/94
Frankfurt	8/46	8/46	8/46	33/77	33/77	12/23	8/46	8/46	8/46
Hong Kong	31/88	31/88	23/78	31/88	31/88	24/75	31/88	31/88	23/78
London	14/57	14/57	11/52	54/100	54/100	12/23	14/57	14/57	11/52
Los Angeles	27/80	27/80	12/30	35/95	35/95	28/82	27/80	27/80	12/30
Madrid	18/64	18/64	18/64	30/86	30/86	24/75	18/64	18/64	18/64
Mexico City	24/75	24/75	23/73	125/30	125/30	27/80	24/75	24/75	23/73
Montreal	7/44	7/44	6/35	35/77	35/77	17/82	7/44	7/44	6/35
Moscow	2/4	2/4	4/25	6/35	6/35	11/52	2/4	2/4	4/25
New York	18/64	18/64	16/61	94/84	94/84	19/64	18/64	18/64	16/61
Paris	12/23	12/23	10/50	18/64	18/64	12/23	12/23	12/23	10/50
Peking	25/77	25/77	22/78	125/30	125/30	27/80	25/77	25/77	22/78
Rio de Janeiro	24/75	24/75	23/73	125/30	125/30	27/80	24/75	24/75	23/73
Rome	20/12	20/12	19/6	125/30	125/30	27/80	20/12	20/12	19/6
Sydney	19/64	19/64	18/64	30/86	30/86	24/75	19/64	19/64	18/64
Tokyo	28/79	28/79	27/70	27/70	27/70	28/79	28/79	28/79	27/70
Toronto	12/23	12/23	12/23	64/35	64/35	20/66	12/23	12/23	12/23
Vienna	17/82	17/82	10/50	14/57	14/57	12/23	17/82	17/82	10/50
Washington	7/44	7/44	6/35	35/77	35/77	17/82	7/44	7/44	6/35
Yokohama	21/70	21/70	19/64	105/50	105/50	21/70	21/70	21/70	19/64
Zurich	16/61	16/61	11/52	43/91	43/91	12/23	16/61	16/61	11/52

TURKEY
Continued from Page 1

"The subject of Syria was discussed, a report was presented and views were stated," it quoted Sezgin as saying of Wednesday's meeting. "I believe diplomacy has the ability to solve many things. I hope we will solve this through diplomatic channels. If we don't solve it through diplomatic means, the game will be played by the rules," Sezgin said.

A spokesman for Turkey's general staff denied newspaper reports of a buildup of Turkish troops and armor along the Syrian border. He said an increase in military hardware in the area was due to NATO military exercises in the coastal town of Iskenderun.

Ankara accuses Syria not only of aiding PKK rebels in Turkey's southeast, but also of sheltering guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan in Damascus. Nearly 29,000 people have been killed in the 14-year conflict.

More than 5,000 troops backed by air power have begun an assault against PKK guerrillas in a mountain stronghold in eastern Turkey, officials said yesterday. Strike helicopters and F-16s fired rockets and bombed PKK rebels in a ravine.

Syria has condemned Turkey's increasing military cooperation with Israel, which it says is directed against itself, Iraq, and Iran.

Israel and Turkey say their military cooperation is not aimed at a third country. Their pact allows Israeli planes to train in Turkish airspace. Israel is upgrading Turkish fighter planes.

Israel and Turkey have announced plans to stage fresh naval maneuvers in the eastern Mediterranean and joint air exercises.

TAX
Continued from Page 1

The meeting was attended by the heads of many immigrant groups, with others including French and Spanish speakers sending messages of support.

Speakers confirmed they have the tacit support of Yisrael Ba'aliya, which wants to expand its support beyond the Russian-speaking community.

"We have to be able to get across the fact that this change will be disastrous," said AACI legal committee chairman Yitzhak Himowitz.

The head of the British Olim Society, Frank Stein, said moves are already underway to hold a joint meeting of the Knesset Immigration and Finance committees immediately after Succot.

Several of those attending the meeting said they know of potential immigrants who are reconsidering in the light of the proposed tax reform.

ALBRIGHT
Continued from Page 1

And Palestinian negotiator Ahmed Qureia said that during the meetings "the ice began to break" between Arafat and Netanyahu who had not talked for a year.

Despite such guarded optimism, the Palestinians said they were skeptical that renewed US mediation would produce an elusive redeployment agreement.

Asked whether the Washington meetings produced progress on a security agreement and special conditions for a nature reserve, Arafat said "yes." He did not elaborate.

However, Arafat spokesman Nabil Abourdenah, said differences on the character of the nature reserve remained. The Palestinians insist that the restrictions on land use remain in effect only until May, the end of the five-year interim period of Palestinian autonomy. Israel has not yet responded to that demand.

The ambassador to the US, Zalman Shoval, said yesterday that the upcoming Washington summit may be delayed by a week to allow more time for reaching an agreement.

The summit had been tentatively scheduled to begin in the Washington area about October 15, the nearest workable date following the conclusion of Succot and Simhat Torah. But conflicts with Netanyahu's schedule leaves scant time to allow for the type of lengthier summit that might be needed, Shoval said.

In an interview with The Jerusalem Post, Shoval said that "there's a chance this whole thing might be postponed" until later in the month, although the Americans prefer that it be held sooner. Shoval added that he will probably firm up the dates at a meeting today with Ross.

But because Netanyahu will have to remain in Israel to launch an economic conference scheduled to begin next Wednesday, he will be able to remain in Washington just over two days before returning to Israel in time to open the new Knesset session on October 19.

Still, Israel is not averse to planned dates for the summit, the Americans estimate the window to be sufficient to conclude a deal, Shoval said.

Also undecided is the venue for the talks. Shoval said that Camp David, the site of 1978 Israeli-Egyptian peace negotiations, has been excluded but that a number of other locations are under review.

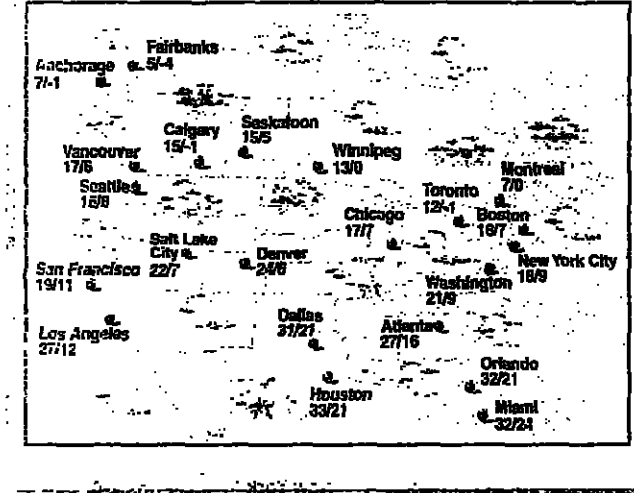
State Department spokesman James Rubin said that Albright would seek to close enough ground in those talks on areas where the sides are close, so as to "try to limit the number of issues that need to be addressed when the two leaders come to the United States for a meeting with the president."

At yesterday's cabinet meeting, a majority of ministers, led by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, voiced support for Netanyahu's direction. They also hoped that a deal would soon be concluded based on the principles laid out by the prime minister.

Minister of Education Yitzhak Levy, on the other hand, criticized the prime minister, saying that Netanyahu should share the details of security demands being made on the Palestinians with all ministers before anything is signed.

Levy and a number of other ministers demanded that the cabinet be briefed in detail about the status of security demands before any US summit is held.

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



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Chelsea advance, Newcastle out

LONDON (AP) — Holders Chelsea squeezed through yesterday with a 1-0 win at Helsingborg to the second round of the Cup Winners Cup.

Newcastle, another of the favorites, was also eliminated by Partizan Belgrade as Vuc Rasovic's penalty gave the Yugoslavs a 1-0 win, advancing 2-2 on the away goal rule.

Lazio, finalists last season in the UEFA Cup, also just got by with a 2-2 draw in Lausanne, moving through 3-3 on away goals.

In Helsingborg, Sweden, the Swedes attacked from the start and dominated. It took Chelsea 25 minutes to get its first shot on goal.

Helsingborg, which eliminated Aston Villa in the UEFA Cup two years ago, had the best chance of the match when Zoran Jovanovski's header in the 30th hit goal Ed De Goey's post.

Midfielder Magnus Powell came close twice, first with a header that narrowly missed the target and then with a powerful shot that went just wide.

In Belgrade, Rasovic scored on the penalty in the 53rd after Newcastle midfielder David Batty was called for pulling down Vladimir Ilic in the area.

The Yugoslavs were the more aggressive side and at one point held a 10-0 advantage in corners. The loss was the first after four straight wins for Ruud Gullit's side.

In Lausanne, Chilean striker Marcelo Salas put the Italian side ahead in the 7th, but Lausanne was level three minutes later when midfielder Philippe Douglas scored.

Lazio regained the lead in the 26th with another counterattack as midfielder Sergio Conceicao connected. Lausanne midfielder Stefan Rehn made it 2-2 with an 84th-minute equalizer to put the Italians on edge to the finish.

In Varazdin, Croatia, Varteks Varazdin won 1-0 on a goal by Fahid Kamberovic to advance on a 2-0 aggregate over Rudar Velenje.

Varteks Varazdin (Croatia) 1, Rudar Velenje (Slovenia) 0 (Fahid Kamberovic 7). Varteks win 2-0 on aggregate.

Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia) 3, CSKA Kiev (Ukraine) 1 (Moscow — Dmitry Bulykin 19, 53, Zaza Dzhanelidze 25; CSKA — Sergei Bezhenar 13). Lokomotiv win 5-1 on aggregate.

Jablonec (Czech Republic) 2, Apollon Limassol (Cyprus) 1 (Jablonec — Martin Prochazka 24, 45; Apollon — Marios Themistocleous 59). Aggregate score 3-3 after extra time, Apollon qualify 4-3 on penalties.

In Valkeakoski: Haka Valkeakoski (Finland) 1, Panionios Athens (Greece) 3 (Valkeakoski — Jarmo Salo 75; Panionios — Panagiotis Fyssas 32, Vasilis Kouvalis 45, Antonis Sapountzis 56). Panionios qualify 5-1 on aggregate.

MTK Budapest (Hungary) 0, Ried (Austria) 1 (Gerald Stranner 10). Ried qualify 3-0 on aggregate.

FC Copenhagen (Denmark) 4, Levis (Slovenia) 0 (Croatia — Martin Nielsen 18, Lars Hoyer Nielsen 49, Thomas Thomsen 59, 76; Sofia — Zoravko Lazarov 85). FC Copenhagen qualify 6-1 on aggregate.

Helsingborg (Sweden) 0, Chelsea (England) 0. Chelsea qualify 1-0 on aggregate.

Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 1, Newcastle (England) 0 (Vuk Rasovic 53pen). Aggregate score: 2-2. Partizan qualify on the away goals rule.

Lausanne Sports (Switzerland) 2, Lazio (Italy) 2 (Lausanne — Philippe Douglas 10, Steffen Rehn 84; Lazio — Marcelo Salas 7, Sergio Conceicao 26). Lazio qualify on away goals.

Genk (Belgium) 5, MSV Duisburg (Germany) 0 (Soulémane Oulane 12, 48, Branko Strupar 31, Tordur Gudjonsson 72, 79). Genk win 6-1 on aggregate.

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Yanks down Rangers for 2-0 lead

Braves pound Cubs

NEW YORK (AP) — Add the name of Shane Spencer to the long list of New York Yankees legends.

An unknown a month ago, the compact rookie capped his amazing September by homering in his first postgame at-bat to lead the Yankees past the Texas Rangers 3-1 Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in their American League division series.

Pettitte atoned for a season-long struggle and pitched perfectly into the fifth inning. Texas led the league in batting this year, but managed only five hits in a Game 1 shutout and got only five more against the AL's top staff.

The Yankees will try to sweep the best-of-5 playoff on Friday night at Texas. David Cone (20-7) starts for New York against Aaron Sele (19-11).

Spencer got his chance to start in left field partly because of an ominous medical report on Darryl Strawberry. Told that doctors had "found something" on his colon, Strawberry left the team for more tests yesterday. It is not known when he will rejoin the Yankees.

Spencer seemed to catch the Rangers by surprise, much the same way he startled Yankees fans with his power down the stretch. He hit a solo home run off Rick Helling in the second inning, then singled ahead of Scott Brosius's homer for a 3-0 lead in the fourth.

The sellout crowd of 57,360 rewarded the rookie with standing ovations all night.

Spencer, 26, had spent eight full seasons in the minors before finally getting his chance in the majors this year. He made three roundtrips between Triple-A Columbus and New York.

Pettitte protected the lead, setting down the first 12 batters with ease. Juan Gonzalez doubled to begin the fifth and later scored on a single by Ivan Rodriguez for Texas's only run.

Pettitte gave up three hits in seven innings, striking out eight and walking none. He improved to 6-0 lifetime at home against Texas and ended a slide in which he won just four of his last 12 starts, leaving his spot in the postseason rotation in doubt.

Jeff Nelson got two outs in the eighth and Mariano Rivera closed for his second save of the series.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Braves 7, Cubs 1

The Chicago Cubs found out that regular-season dominance means little once the playoffs start. Atlanta's John Smoltz dominated the Cubs, snapping the Braves' five-game losing streak against Chicago.

"What happened during the regular season is over," said Sammy Sosa, whose Cubs took six of nine from Atlanta, including five in a row before the loss Wednesday in their first playoff appearance since 1995.

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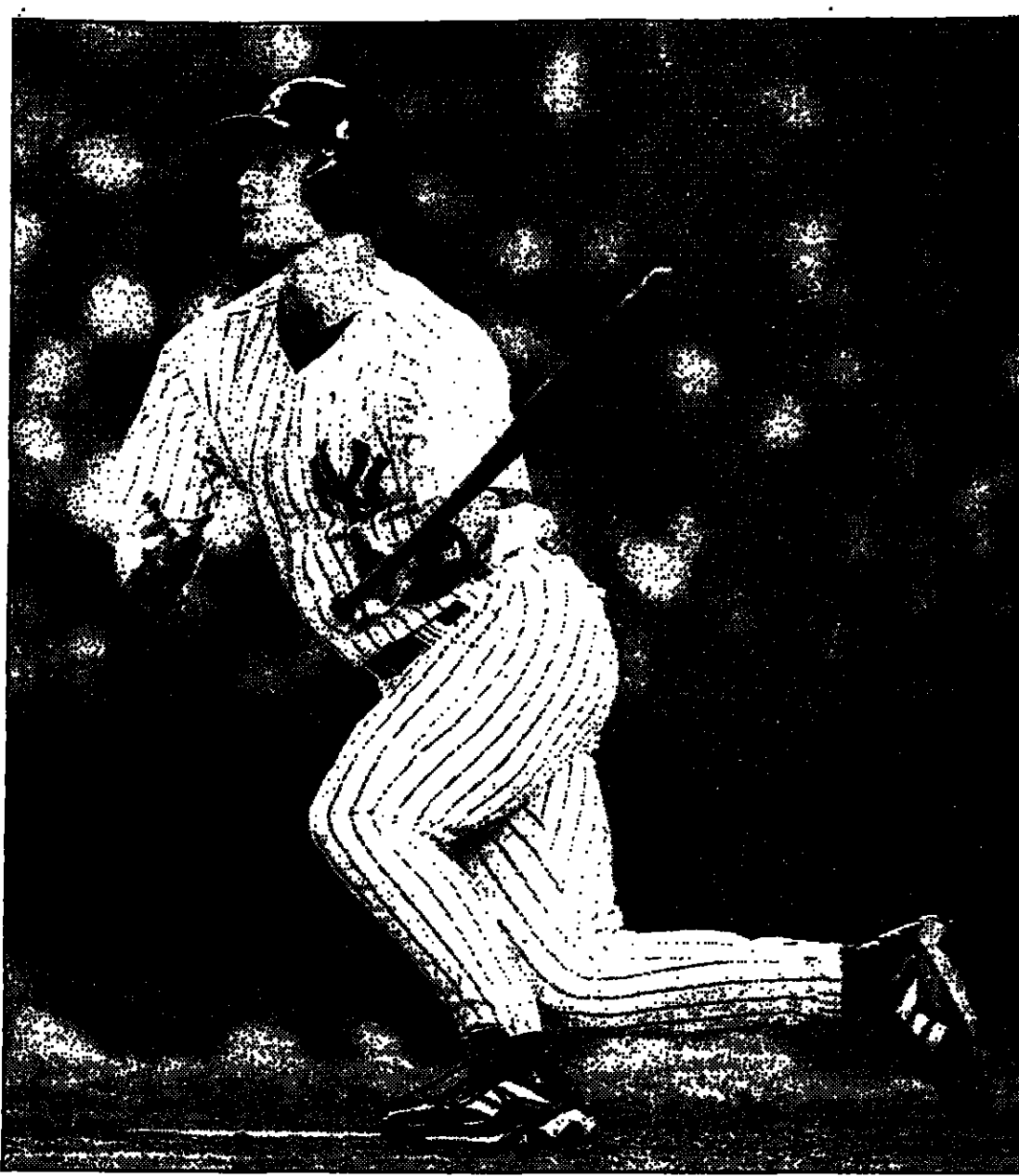
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NEW KID ON THE BLOCK — New York Yankees rookie Shane Spencer watches his home run in Game 2 of the division series against the Rangers. The Yankees won 3-1.

1998. "We only lost one game. We played poorly today and made a few mistakes," said Sosa, who became a household name when he hit 66 home runs to finish fourth behind Mark McGwire's record 70 homers.

"It's no different in the playoffs. Maybe we tried to do too much in the first game," he said.

The Braves, taking part in a record seventh consecutive playoff, played 72 games in the postseason since the Cubs last appeared.

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Leyland quits Marlins

MIAMI (AP) — Jim Leyland, having seen his World Series champions broken apart in less than a year, left the Florida Marlins yesterday.

Leyland announced that he will not return as the Marlins' manager next season, activating an escape clause that allows him to take a \$500,000 buyout if he quits within two weeks of the end of the baseball regular season. The season ended Sunday.

"From a business standpoint, it didn't quite work out," Leyland said on a conference call from his Pittsburgh home. "I had to determine whether I was willing to go at the pace that new ownership's going to set. I decided that I don't want to do that."

Leyland had said Wednesday he had revealed his decision only to his wife and their two children. He said he was ready to "shock the world," but his departure had been largely expected.

"When I said major shock in the papers, I think this is a major shock," Leyland said yesterday. "Maybe some of you don't. Some of the coaches thought I'd make the decision to stay."

Instead, Leyland chose not to remain with a team that is in ownership limbo coming off a 54-108 season, the worst in the National League since 1969.

Leyland has been mulling his options since the season ended Sunday.

"I wanted to get away from things and make what I thought was the best decision," said Leyland, who led the Marlins to the World Series championship in 1997.

There's been speculation he'll become the next manager of the Colorado Rockies, who fired Don Baylor on Monday. Leyland and Rockies owner Jerry McMorris are good friends, and the Rockies have been awaiting permission from the Marlins to interview Leyland.

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Graham completes controversial move to Spurs Hapoel Jerusalem remains unbeaten

LONDON (Reuters) — George Graham made one of the most controversial moves in British soccer yesterday when he was appointed manager of Tottenham Hotspur and said he hoped to return the club to the big time.

Graham, who enjoyed some of his best days as a player and coach at Tottenham's fierce north London rivals Arsenal, agreed to quit Leeds United and take over from Swiss coach Christian Gross who was sacked last month.

Tottenham confirmed the appointment less than 24 hours after Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale announced he had given the club permission to talk to the 53-year-old Graham.

The Scot, interested in returning to London for personal reasons, clearly needed little time to make a decision. Leeds soon realized that they could not hang on to a man who wanted to be closer to his family and accepted compensation.

Graham told a news conference he wanted to return the club to its former success after a decade when they have largely failed to live up to their reputation as one of the most glamorous clubs in the English game.

"The first thing I want to do is to get them back up the league and in the next two years to get them into the top six," Graham said. "If we can get them there, we can hope to compete with the big boys. It was a difficult decision (to leave Leeds), an important decision and also a personal decision...The job is done here. The club has been turned around. I am proud of what I've done. But I understand fans being upset."

The move showed that the passionate feelings of fans, handed down from generation to generation, count for little in the modern English game where survival in the Premier League is vital for a club's financial future.

Arsenal and Tottenham supporters have little time for each other. Last year Arsenal fans talked of winning the treble — the league championship, FA Cup and watching Spurs get relegated. They achieved two of the targets while Tottenham were happy to stay up.

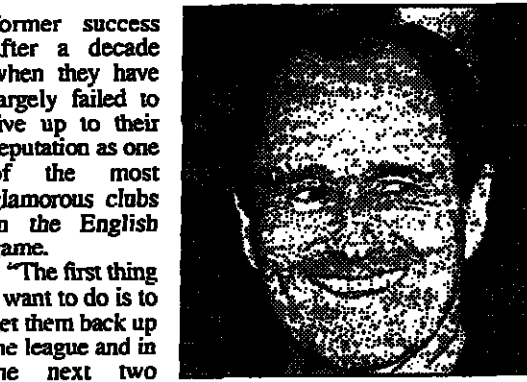
Some Tottenham fans, who have a reputation for wanting attractive football and flamboyant players, have already been angered by the talk of the arrival of Graham, who has a reputation for careful rather than champagne soccer.

The Scot is known for getting teams to defend well and threw out the "name" players when he first arrived at Leeds. But Graham said: "If I were a Tottenham fan, I'd be wanting to see a winning Tottenham team. You don't care who the manager is."

Tottenham, one of the most glamorous clubs in the English game, are struggling to match their glory days of the 1950s and 1960s. Apart from one FA Cup success in 1991, they have won little in the last decade.

Graham was a member of the 1971 Arsenal double team and coached the club to the league championship in 1989 and 1991.

Under Graham, Arsenal also won the FA Cup in 1993 and the European Cup Winners' Cup in the following year.



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(Reuters)

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Williams beats Sanchez-Vicario

By ELI GRONER

Hapoel Jerusalem remained perfect in both European Sports Cup play and local basketball action, after defeating Givat Shmuel, 79-71, in Malha last night. The win improved Hapoel's record to 2-0 in both competitions.

All five of Effi Birnbaum's starters scored in double figures, with Papi Turgeman leading the way with 21 points. Radisav Curcic added 16 points while Derrick Hamilton chipped in 14.

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Inside

Graham joins Tottenham
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Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Pakistan beat Australia

RAWALPINDI. Pakistan (Reuters) - An unbeaten 132 by Saeed Anwar lifted Pakistan from a disastrous start to a respectable 253 for eight against Australia on the first day of the first Test yesterday.

When bad light stopped play five overs early, opener Anwar and a valiant Mushtaq Ahmed had shored up the innings with an unbroken 106-run stand.

It was a Test record for the ninth wicket for Pakistan against Australia, beating the 56 by Intikhab Alam and Afaq Hussain in Melbourne in 1964/65.

It was Anwar's first hundred against Australia and his sixth Test century.

Betar go down 4-2 to Rangers

By ORI LEWIS, DEREK FATTAL and OFER RONEN-ABELS

Israeli soccer experienced the highs and lows of European cup soccer yesterday as Maccabi Haifa registered their most impressive result with a 3-2 (aggregate 4-3) win over Paris St. Germain at Kiryat Eliezer last night.

At the other end of the emotional spectrum, Betar Jerusalem managed to score two away goals but were largely outplayed by Glasgow Rangers at Ibrox Park ending up 5-3 losers on aggregate.

Mac. Haifa 3, PSG 2

In Haifa, a last-gasp winner from international striker Alon Mizrahi saw State Cup holders Maccabi Haifa through to the last-16 of the Cup Winners' Cup after they beat favored Paris St. Germain 3-2 (4-3 on aggregate).

Following the 1-1 draw which the Israelis brought back home from Paris two weeks ago, it was clear that the Parisians would be under great pressure. Their coach, Alain Giresse, kept all prying eyes away from his training sessions, but he appeared to hold no secrets and the Maccabi defense coped



Marco Simone of Paris St. Germain tussles with Haifa's Radovan Hromdov in their match last night.

(Reuters)

well with most of the Paris attacks on the night.

The Parisians held the advantage in the goalless first half as Nicolas Ouedec and Igor Yanovski tested Haifa's keeper Nir Davidovich on several occasions.

At the other end, PSG's goalkeeper, Bernard Lama, was hardly troubled as only Haifa's creative Bosnian midfielder, Ibrahim Duro, failed to break past the last lines of the Paris defense with his surging runs.

Adoram Casey put Haifa ahead after 58 minutes when he stabbed home the rebound off a lobbed header by Mizrahi which hit the crossbar.

Ouedec equalized when he shot low and hard past Davidovich after receiving a perfect through ball from Augustin Okocha on 72 minutes. With the prospect of extra time looming, Haifa threw everything they had into attack with their talented youngster, Yossi Benayoun, creating several dangerous situations in front of the Paris goal. Haifa took the lead again when a move started by Benayoun midway in the Paris half. He crossed left to 18-year-old Yaniv Kattan - who came on as substitute for Duro - on the left. Kattan in turn, passed a perfect low cross for Mizrahi to flick high into the back of Lama's net.

The second Parisian equalizer was similar to Haifa's second goal, with Marco Simone passing into Okocha who slipped the ball past Davidovich. The 14,000 Haifa crowd fell silent as all the team's efforts seemed in vain. But Mizrahi had other ideas, and his winner came with the clock ticking over two minutes into injury time. The Israeli striker's powerful 18-meter shot from the left took a deflection off Alain Goma and ended up in the back of the helpless Lama's net.

A further five minutes of injury time was needed before Haifa's celebrations could begin late into the night in the bars and on the quays of the port city.

Haifa's Czech coach Dusan Uhrin was ecstatic with the win, and while he was in no mood to talk about the tactics of the match, he appeared buoyant enough to send his men out to play the next round already.

"I don't care who we face in the next round (of the competition), all that matters is that we achieved a great win. Whoever comes up in the draw, we'll be ready for them," Uhrin said.

Haifa's international defender Alon Harazi was also over the moon. "This is a victory for heart over skill," he said.

The French camp were unavail-

able for comment as they remained ensconced in their dressing room trying to take stock of what had befallen them. Only a team spokesman who refused to divulge his name came out to say that coach Giresse and the rest of the team had nothing to say.

Rangers 4, Betar Jerusalem 2

Betar Jerusalem's taste of European action came to an abrupt halt last night at Ibrox Park in front of 48,000 passionate Scottish fans who saw Rangers net four goals on their way to defeating the Israelis 4-2 in this UEFA Cup first round second leg tie. Rangers advance to the second round draw 5-3 winners on aggregate.

The Betar players had hardly taken their places at the kick off when Jonatan Johanson surged down the left flank then whipped a cross into the center which Gennaro Gattuso rifled into the back of the Jerusalem-net with less than 30 seconds on the game clock.

By the 25th minute the Clydesiders were two goals up, when a corner from the left by Giovanni Van Bronckhorst was met by a thunderous header from Sergio Porrini.

The Betar's made a rare incursion forward in the 33rd minute. Ofer Shitrit found himself on the left hand side of the Rangers area.

As Shitrit entered the box Rangers full back Lorenzo Amoruso made the fatal mistake of backpeddling and allowed Shitrit to slip the ball through to Stefan Salloi who completed the move by tucking his shot past Lionel Charbonnier from close range.

Within a minute Tomas Sandor almost equalized for the Jerusalemites when a deep lobbed ball from Eitan Mizrahi was headed on to him by Salloi, but Sandor fired centimeters wide. Seven minutes before halftime Sandor saw a fine effort foiled by a flying save by Charbonnier.

A stern half-time talk by Rangers coach Dick Advocaat paid off in the 60th minute when Johanson stuck his foot out to a Antony Vidmar cross, to make the score 3-1.

Five minutes later the Rangers fans were cheering again after Johanson rounded Kornfein, leaving Rodney Wallace the simple task of directing the ball into an empty net.

By way of consolation Betar got on to the scoresheet again in the 82nd minute when substitute Eli Ohana beat Charbonnier from the penalty spot to clinch what will probably be his final goal in a distinguished European career, after Amoruso had brought Shitrit down in area.

Full NBA season looking less likely

NEW YORK (AP) - The start of the NBA season was in greater jeopardy than ever as owners and players announced they won't meet again until October 8.

The sides will have only a few days to strike a deal that would preserve an 82-game sched-

ule, and a quick settlement seems extremely unlikely with the parties so far apart on the main economic issue of a "hard" or "soft" salary cap.

"I'm starting to believe that not playing through this calendar year is becoming like-

ly," deputy commissioner Russ Granik said as all parties to the dispute grew increasingly pessimistic.

Granik said the league wanted to meet for a formal bargaining session as soon as possible. He blamed the delay on the union.

Efes Pilsen sinks Maccabi

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Go out and buy a warm sweater, Maccabi fans - it's going to be a long, cold winter. Displaying a bit more fighting spirit than last week, coach Yoram Harush's team nonetheless suffered another crushing home EuroLeague defeat last night, going down 68-66 to Efes Pilsen at Yad Eliahu and dealing a serious blow to their European chances.

The defeat dropped Maccabi to 0-2 in Group B, marking the first time they have lost their first two home games in European play since the 1992-93 season, when they also failed to win the league title. Only some incredible road play can restore their now questionable chances for any visit to the Final Four this season.

Once again, all of the Maccabi club's faults were on display: Poor outside shooting, a lack of any real scoring power inside, and porous interior defense that let the Turks score inside almost at will. Once again, former NBA stalwart Willie Anderson stunk up Yad Eliahu, supplying only nine points, disappearing on defense and somehow still finding time to snipe at his own bench.

Victor Alexander showed some fight inside, and improved his game overall, but missed several easy chances under the hoop. And Nikolai Loncar, the Bosnian player brought in to the Maccabi mix for his three-point shooting, ended up just 1-7 from beyond the arc, contributing mightily to his club's overall 3-14 shooting from three-point range.

The fact that Pilsen only eked out the two-point victory, its fifth victory over Maccabi in their last six meetings, is due more to its own terrible foul shooting than anything else.

Truthfully, Harush's club played commendable defense for much of the game. Unfortunately, Maccabi's offense was so haphazard, there was often no one to capitalize on the opportunities created by the defense.

For most of the first half, Maccabi managed to stay one step ahead of the Turks, getting some points inside from Alexander. Even Anderson looked sharper, scoring seven first-half points. Maccabi's transition game worked well, as they beat the Turks down the floor for some easy baskets.

Turkish point guard Petar Naumoski managed to get several Maccabi players in foul trouble, and Sheffer was forced to leave with just four minutes left in the half.

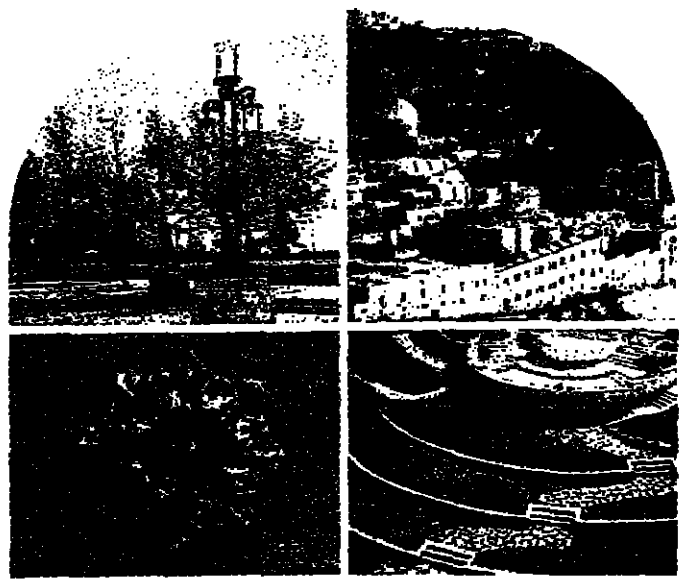
But Maccabi held on, with reserve center Constantin Popa contributing more than Loncar, who once again looked lost on offense.

Sheffer and Henefeld had the Maccabi transition game running to perfection early in the second half, the Maccabi point guard by now playing with four fouls. A basket by Henefeld off a Sheffer feed boosted Harush's club to a 40-33 lead with 17:30 left to play, and the nervous fans finally had something to cheer about.

But Pilsen's Ufuk Sorica repeatedly cut through Maccabi defenders, scoring all of his points in the half.

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